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HISTORY  
OF  
YATES COUNTY, N. Y.

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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF SOME  
OF THE PROMINENT MEN AND PIONEERS.

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EDITED BY LEWIS CASS ALDRICH.

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SYRACUSE, N. Y.:  
D. MASON & CO., PUBLISHERS,  
1892.





Canner \$25.00

# INTRODUCTION.

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IN attempting the production of a History of Yates County, the publishers have not underestimated the difficulties and the magnitude of their task. Although Yates County is not a very old one, counting from its separate organization, it has, nevertheless seen more than a century of civilized occupation; and in this new world, as it is called, the settlement and growth of towns and villages, and the occurrence of important events in their progress, have advanced with almost marvellous rapidity, while the materials for history have accumulated in a corresponding ratio. In making a history of this county the publishers entered upon the task with a determination to leave nothing undone, to spare no labor or expense that could in any manner contribute to the successful and creditable accomplishment of the work. Whether or not they have succeeded is a question left to the judgment of the readers.

It is believed that the general history of the county will give entire satisfaction to all who may peruse it, but in some degree the subjects therein treated are in more condensed form than in works published earlier than this; still it is thought that nothing is omitted from the present volume that is necessary to be preserved as a part of the record of Yates County, whether of general or town history. It is not claimed by the editor or by the publishers that this work is free from error, for

it would be a thing unprecedented should there be found within its covers not a single inaccuracy; nevertheless great care has been exercised to insure correctness in general and in detail.

The publishers are under many obligations of gratitude to the people of the county for their generous support in making this work a success, but there are persons whose services in the preparation of chapters have been so specially valuable as to entitle them to more than passing notice. In this connection may be mentioned the names of Hon. George R. Cornwell, from whose pen the county has the benefit of an elaborate chapter on Education; John N. Macomb, jr., who contributed the chapter on Free-Masonry; Hon. William S. Briggs, for his recollections of the "old bar" of the county; Steven B. Ayres, for the chapter on the Press; Walter Wolcott, for the Military chapter; George C. Snow, esq., for the chapter on the Vineyards and their Products; James Miller, for the chapter on Agriculture; Charles H. Martin, esq., for the history of Starkey; D. B. Cornell, for the history of Barrington.

With the expression of these obligations the Memorial History of Yates County is placed before the public by the editor and the publishers.

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# HISTORY

OF

## YATES COUNTY, N. Y.

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### CHAPTER I.

The Subject—Yates County Erected—The older Counties—The *Terra Incognita*—Formation of Albany County—Of Tryon County—Of Montgomery County—Of Ontario County—Of Steuben County—Yates formed from Ontario and Steuben Counties—A general Topographical view of Yates County—Its elevated Lands—The lakes of the County.

THE county of Yates, brought into existence by the legislative enactment passed by the two branches of the State legislature and approved by the governor on the 5th of February, 1823, was given the name of "Yates" in compliment to the then chief executive of the Commonwealth. Under all ordinary circumstances a work which purports to be the separate history of a county would naturally commence with its separate organization, but should such a plan be deemed advisable much of the early history made by the presence and deeds of men and families, and the occurrence of events within its territorial limits, would of necessity be omitted. And it is a fact well known that the specially interesting events of early history in Yates County transpired prior to its erection and separate organization. Even as far back as the time when this region formed a part of the old county of Albany, organized November 1, 1683, during the possession and dominion of the famous Iroquois Confederacy, this locality was making history through

its aboriginal occupants. And still earlier than that time, in 1638, during the Dutch dominion in the New Netherlands, there appears to have been an indefinite and immature knowledge and organization in the region of Western New York, as afterward known, and to it was applied the name of *Terra Incognita*, from the Latin, meaning "an unknown county." But the Dutch were not adventurous explorers, and there is nothing of record to show that they ever made any extensive journeys into this then remote region; and whatever of jurisdictional authority they exercised over the country at all was confined to the locality of the Netherlands and New Amsterdam.

Under recognized authority, with due formality, Albany County was the first organized jurisdiction that embraced the lands now included within Yates County. It so remained until the year 1772, when all that part of the province of New York lying west of a north and south line drawn through the center of Schoharie County, as now established, was erected into a new county and named in honor of the then chief executive, William Tryon, his surname being the name of the new erection. But Governor Tryon, being an officer and an appointee of the Crown, for New York was then a royal province, was not highly popular with the successful American colonists who overthrew the power of Great Britain; wherefore immediately upon the close of the Revolution the name of Tryon was changed to Montgomery. In 1788 all the region of the State west from Utica was included in the township of Whitestown. On the 27th of January, 1789, Ontario County was created out of a part of Montgomery, and was named from the lake which in part formed its northern boundary. At that time all that is now Yates County was a part of Ontario, but seven years later, March 18, 1796, Steuben was erected and within it was a portion of that which is now Yates, being the townships of Starkey and Barrington and a part at least of Jerusalem. However in 1814 the part of land in the "fork" of Keuka or Crooked Lake was re-annexed to Ontario County. No further material change affecting this immediate locality was made until the year 1823, when Yates County was erected out of Ontario. The towns of Starkey and Barrington were added to the new formation in 1824. But before advancing thoroughly into the history of the district prior to its distinct organization it is proper that there be given a



general topographical view of the county and of the towns which form the same; and as the configuration of the surface has not materially changed during the last hundred years this description may be given in the present tense.

The county of Yates is situate in the eastern part of the rich Genesee country, so called, and, while not central therein, is no less productive in all that the earth yields than can be said of any other portion of that extensive region. Generally the surface is level, but the succession of undulations frees the county from marsh lands and affords a most excellent natural drainage system. Being bounded on the east and west sides by the lakes—Seneca and Canandaigua respectively—the course of nature's dispensation has been entirely favorable, as the higher elevations are usually found about midway between these waters. But nature has made a still further favorable provision for this region, as the lake commonly called Keuka happens to occupy the middle portion of the county and is not so wide as to cover any considerable extent of land surface in that direction. Keuka Lake, too, is regarded as distinctively a part of Yates County, for the greater portion of its waters are within the limits of the county. To this body of water, from its peculiar shore outlines, there has been applied the name Crooked Lake, an entirely appropriate designation, for the like formation is not to be found in this State. In extreme length the lake measures twenty-two miles, while its average width is about three-quarters of a mile. The peculiarity of formation consists in what is commonly called the west branch of the lake, being an arm or offshoot of the principal body and of about the same average width, and extending therefrom north by west a distance of about four miles. From this singular dispensation of nature the pioneers gave to this body of water the name Crooked Lake. To the Seneca Indians, and to the people of the Iroquois Confederacy in general, the lake was known as *O-go-yo-ga*, but of the meaning of that name we have no definite interpretation. The same sheet of water is also known as Keuka Lake, which is also an Indian appellation, likewise of uncertain meaning. In this same connection it may also be stated that the Iroquois name of Seneca Lake was *Ga-nun-da-sa-ga Te-car-ne o-di*, while the name applied to Canandaigua Lake by the Confederacy was *Ga-nun-da-gwa Te-car-ne-o-di*, the letter *a* in

the first and third syllables being sounded as in "far." The present name of Canandaigua is the fair English pronunciation of the Indian appellation, but the pioneers of Western New York preferred to call Ganundasaga Lake after the occupants of the region on its west side—the Senecas.

According to a map and survey of the township of Milo and village of Penn Yan, said to be entirely reliable, made by J. H. French in 1857, we may note some comparative altitudes, using Keuka or Crooked Lake as a base. From the surveys and measurements made at that time it is learned that Keuka Lake is 50 feet higher in elevation than Canandaigua Lake; 153 feet higher than Lake Erie; 271 feet higher than Seneca Lake; 331 feet higher than Cayuga Lake; 343 feet higher than Oneida Lake; 348 feet higher than Cross Lake; 398 feet higher than Onondaga Lake; 487 feet higher than Lake Ontario; 625 feet higher than Lake Champlain; 718 feet higher than the ocean level; 52 feet lower than Owasco Lake; 122 feet lower than Skaneateles Lake; 182 feet lower than Cazenovia Lake; 475 feet lower than Otsego Lake; 573 feet lower than Chautauqua Lake. As compared with land elevation in this immediate vicinity it is found that Crooked Lake is 236 feet lower than the village of Dundee; 42 feet lower than the hamlet of Himrods; 153 feet lower than Milo Center; 880 feet lower than Barrington Summit<sup>1</sup>; 372 feet lower than Bath; 707 feet lower than Bluff Point; 776 feet lower than Prattsburgh; 1,324 feet lower than Italy Summit; 572 feet lower than Rose Hill in Jerusalem.

Again, as showing comparative altitudes within the county, to point out to the reader the various heights of land, we quote from the published computations and estimates made by Israel H. Arnold in 1870 and referring particularly to points west of Jerusalem township, and for the purpose of determining the greatest elevations in Italy township, which is generally conceded to be the most hilly and mountainous subdivision of Yates County. For this investigation Mr. Arnold fixed his theodolite on the premises of Peter Pulver in the township of Italy. From the conclusions thus made we learn the heights of the following points:

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Wright gives the Barrington elevation as 625 feet above the lake.



Italy Summit above Canandaigua Lake, sixteen miles due north, . . . . .	1,525	feet
Bristol Hills, fourteen miles distant northwest, above Pulver Cemetery, . . . . .	43	"
Bristol Hills below Italy Summit, . . . . .	7	"
Bristol Hills above Canandaigua Lake, . . . . .	1,518	"
Italy Summit above Seneca Lake, sixteen miles distant, . . . . .	1,597	"
Italy Summit above Keuka Lake, distant six miles, . . . . .	1,324	"
Italy Summit above Yates County poor-house, . . . . .	690	"
County poor-house above Keuka Lake, . . . . .	634	"
Keuka Lake above Seneca Lake, . . . . .	273	"
Italy Summit above Ansley's Stone House, three miles distant, on lot 14 (Beddoe Tract), 1,918 feet or about 120 rods east of the White School- House Corners on Branchport and Italy Hill road, . . . . .	507	"
Ansley's above William P. Hibbard's house, distant 660 feet, . . . . .	30	"
Hibbard's above top of ridge, 100 rods east, . . . . .	72	"
Top of ridge above Shull's northeast corner, seventy-six rods east, . . . . .	62	"
Shull's above Keuka Lake, distant three miles, . . . . .	655	"
Shull's above Nathaniel G. Hibbard's carriage-house, distant 176 rods, . . . . .	160	"
N. G. Hibbard's above base of Keuka Hotel, Branchport, distance 400 rods (one and one-quarter miles), . . . . .	462	"
Keuka Hotel above Keuka Lake, distance forty rods, . . . . .	29	"
Keuka Lake above tide-water, . . . . .	740	"

From what has just been stated the fact clearly appears that the town of Italy can justly lay claim to the highest lands in the county, while following it in this respect are the somewhat rough and hilly towns of Middlesex, Potter, and Jerusalem. But in Italy as well as in the other towns named there is an abundance of fertile and productive land, susceptible of high cultivation, and yielding fair rewards for the husbandman's efforts.

The more level lands of the county are to be found in the towns of Benton, Milo, Torrey, Starkey, and Barrington, leading almost in the order of their naming. Milo is bounded on both its east and west sides by the lakes respectively Seneca and Keuka, and has a greater water front than any other town in the county except Jerusalem. In Milo as in the other lake towns the slope from the shores back toward the interior is generally gradual, but in places the ascent is somewhat precipitous, making remunerative cultivation by ordinary farmers quite uncertain; but when these conditions arise the husbandman has but to turn the farm into a vineyard and the results are substantial and profitable. In Jerusalem in the locality commonly known as Bluff Point, where a considerable elevation above the lake is noticeable and the ascent of land is

strong, agricultural pursuits have been largely abandoned, with the result that almost the entire water front of the Bluff is set with vines and produce much better returns to the vineyardist than could be expected by the farmer. Thus there is but little waste or unproductive land in Yates County. And what has been said concerning the region of Keuka Lake front is also true of the eastern boundary of the county on Seneca Lake, in the towns of Benton, Torrey, Milo, and Starkey, although the latter region is not quite so productive in grape yield as on the Keuka shore.

Now having located the county in the State, and having described its physical features in a general way, the chapters immediately following may properly be devoted to a record of its history prior to its civil organization; to a narrative of the experiences of those who were its discoverers and first occupants, and who by their performances opened the way for subsequent pioneer settlement and substantial internal development and improvement. To sufficiently narrate these early events it will be necessary to refer at some length to the entire region of country of which Yates County forms a part, for, as stated in the early portion of this chapter, many of the more interesting occurrences of our early history took place before its separate erection was made or even contemplated, and as far back even as the colonial period, when the French, the Dutch, and the English were planting their first settlements, each progressing from a different point on navigable waters and drawing toward a common center, which center when approached resulted in a contest for supremacy, ownership, and jurisdiction over the soil and finally ended in warfare. Between these powers the strife was continued for many years, but the final culmination was the overthrow of British dominion in America and the establishment of the United States of America, a free and independent government.

## CHAPTER II.

Doubtful claims to Prehistoric Occupancy—The Indian Occupation—Its nature and Extent—Ancient Indian Traditions—The Iroquois Confederacy—Senecas occupy the region of Yates County—Sites of Indian villages in this Locality—Their principal Trails—Remains of old Fortresses—The Seneca Tradition—The League of the Iroquois—Conquests by the Confederates.

THE claim has been made on the part of some presumably well informed persons residing in Yates County that there have been found in some localities evidences of a prehistoric occupancy; that there have been discovered certain relics and fossil remains and implements of peculiar manufacture, the like of which are now unknown; and that they must have been left by a race of people different from the red sons of the forest, the period of whose occupation of the region must have long antedated the coming of the ancestors of the famed Iroquois. This claim is undoubtedly a mistaken one. To be sure there have been unearthed tools and utensils which were never in common use among the Indians, but the reader must remember that the French Jesuits and their followers traversed this country hundreds of years before any white civilized settlement was made by what we call our own people; and it must be remembered, too, that the crude and to us unaccountable implements were then in the hands of comparative ancients, and were the product of a period in which was known but little of the mechanical arts as we see and understand and use them at the present time. Long years before the Indians of this locality and those of the afterward-called Canadian provinces were at deadly enmity and warfare there had been made European discoveries in the extreme northeast part of North America, and by a class of people who dwelt in a state of comparative barbarism; and there are well authenticated records by which it is learned that this ancient people made visits to the Atlantic Coast and traveled or voyaged a considerable distance to the southward, even as far as the State we now call New Jersey.

And it may have been possible that this people brought and left some implements and relics which have been discovered by later gen-

erations of investigators, and by such discovery may have been promulgated the theory of a prehistoric occupancy. The Indians, too, and especially the first of them that visited this region, are recorded as having been ready and apt in the construction of their weapons and tools, and discovering some ancient instrument imitated its construction for their own uses. That they had some immature and indefinite knowledge of metals and their value there is no possible doubt, but with the advent of civilized European settlement in the fifteenth century and following, and the distribution of various utensils and implements among the red men, the necessity of their crude manufactures was obviated, and their tools and appliances were discarded and replaced with those which were better and more substantial. But in the regions bordering on great lakes, and particularly in the locality of the present State of Ohio, there have been made discoveries that are unmistakable evidences of an ancient occupancy, far back of the coming of the Iroquois ancestors or of their old antagonists, the Lenni Lenapes. Neither of these Indian people had any tradition that run to the time of the Mound Builders; but the discoveries of such an occupation are constantly being made by the present generation of investigators. And there have been made discoveries in the region of Lakes Ontario and Erie in this Commonwealth that tend to show an ancient or prehistoric occupancy, but it can hardly be asserted that there have been found in the immediate region of Yates County any reliable evidences of such an occupation. There may be ill-defined outline possibilities from which we may readily theorize on this subject, but no substantial argument concerning their presence is to be advanced. Such an occupancy was possible, but quite improbable. It is extremely doubtful whether any ardent student of the ancient races will ever discover evidences of occupation in this region of either Aztecs, Cliff Builders, Mound Builders, or even the lost tribes the House of Israel.

But before leaving this branch of the subject we feel constrained to give place to the observations and discoveries of Dr. Samuel Hart Wright, which assuredly tend to show a prehistoric occupation of some character. The results of Dr. Wright's investigations, as taken from a recent publication, are as follows :

“In Torrey and in Barrington are to be found relics of those earlier,



mysterious races of whom but little but their death is known. Archæologists have called them Mound Builders, from the remains of their ancient life that lie scattered from New York to the Gulf of Mexico, and have attributed to them civilized customs and fabulous ancestry; but later investigations show that they were races similar to the Indians. Whence they came will forever be unknown. Their arts and crafts partook of a modern civilization. Stone and copper implements, rough pottery, and coarse cloth evidence their progress in the mechanical arts. Their remains dot the southwestern part of New York. Around Lake Lamoka and on the boundaries of Barrington their mounds appear, while on the summit of Bluff Point they built an earthwork whose counterpart is unknown within the limits of the State. It is located in lots five and six, now cut by a public highway, and is seven acres in extent. The elements have nearly obliterated all trace of it and the plow has completed the destructive work. What was the purpose of this singular construction is shrouded in mystery. It could neither have been a defensive work nor a place of burial. From the spot where it stands the western branch of Lake Keuka is seen, and but a few rods distant the eastern branch, with Penn Yan in the distance, looms in view. No more sightly position could have been selected.

“The construction of the parallel ridges is peculiar. They were raised but twelve or eighteen inches above the surface, were eight feet in width, level on the top, and faced along the sides with flat stones. The only conjecture with the likelihood of truth is that the strange erection was connected with the religion of that long gone race, the Mound Builders. How cannot be told. Who knows what god they worshiped or can tell the tenets of their faith! Their history has long departed. Centuries ago it vanished from the earth. All things are fleeting, and gods, like men, soon pass away.

“This ancient earthwork, like others of its class, was as inexplicable to the Senecas as to us. Their traditions ran not back of their own history. In winter evenings, when gathered around the lodge fire, youths and warriors listened with bated breath to legends and myths that the ancients told, stories of wizards and flying heads,—for the Indians were a superstitious race,—but they heard nought of any people that preceded them. In their opinion they were the first that had lived within

their territories ; they were the autochthones ; at Bare Hill, in Middlesex, they came out of the ground and thence spread northward and eastward to the positions where the French first found them ; they were *Ongwe Honwe*, the real men. So far as they could remember no change had ever occurred in their social and political institutions, save only their adherence to the League. The same sachems governed them as in the earliest dawn of their history, and their language and religion saw no change."

So far as authentic history goes to show the first and original occupants of the region of this part of Western New York were the North American Indians. When the first Spanish adventurers set foot on the soil of this country they found its territory to be inhabited by a race of people who called themselves Lenni Lenapes, meaning "original people." They occupied the region of country that bordered on the coast and along the valleys of the great rivers in the States now known as Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, New Jersey, and others even to the extreme South. They styled themselves original people from the fact that they were then the most powerful Indian nation in this broad land ; but they were not a warlike race of savages and were content to dwell at peace among themselves and with others, notwithstanding the claim that they had a grievance against the people who were originally called the Mengwe, but afterward the Five Nations of Indians—the all-powerful Iroquois Confederacy.

According to the ancient Indian tradition, and it is a story so often told that it seems to be an assured fact, there once journeyed from the country far west of the Mississippi River two nations of Indians, and that they by mere accident met one another. After meeting they joined together and traveled in common. On approaching the Mississippi they were told by their runners that the banks of the river were in possession of a warlike people, and from whom they should obtain permission to cross. For this purpose messengers were sent forward with the request that the pilgrim tribes be allowed to pass the river and settle on the other side. Permission was given to cross the stream, but the travelers were ordered not to take up their abode in the country of the Allegwi, they who were in possession, but to journey to the far East beyond the region of the Mississippi. Then commenced the crossing

of the river, which required much time, as there were thousands of the emigrants. When a portion had crossed the Allegwi, fearing treachery or from pure wantonness, fell upon those who were on the east side, slew many of them, and scattered the others in the boundless forests. After a time all were gathered together, a council was held, and it was determined to return and make war upon the cruel and merciless Allegwi. It was done and a long and bloody battle followed, with the result that the Allegwi were beaten and driven from the region to the far South. The eastward journey was again resumed, but the Lenni Lenapes claimed that through the acts of their companions, the Mengwe, the brunt of the battle fell upon them, while the Mengwe hung in the rear and fought but little. Thereafter, though they traveled together, they had but little in common. And when the pilgrimage was ended the nations parted, the Lenni Lenapes occupying the country on the coast and along the great interior rivers, while the Mengwe settled in the region of the lakes and through the interior of New York State (as it afterward became) between the Hudson River and the western part of Lake Erie. The seat of government of the former people was on the Delaware River, from which fact the Lenape in after years became known as the "Delaware," but the numerous tribe branches took names suited to the locality in which they severally lived, all, however, paying allegiance to the same parental head. Among the descendants of the Lenni Lenapes there was formed a crude system of government, and by firmly adhering to it they maintained for many years a supremacy over other Indian nations, in a numerical sense at least, but at length the so-called Iroquois Confederacy became of such strength that they waged a war against all other Indian nations, overcame them, and were for many years the acknowledged rulers of the whole country.

As early as the year 1620 the Jesuit missionaries first visited the region of Western New York. They came to instruct the Indians, and if possible to extend the power and influence of the Romish Church. They found the extreme western part of this State, bordering on Lake Erie, to be in possession of a tribe of Indians whom they called the Neuter Nation. Their Indian name has been given by some writers as *Kahquahs* and by others as *Attiwondaronk*. The French called them the Neuter Nation because they lived at peace with the fierce tribes

which dwelt on either side of them. They were reported by their first European visitors to number 12,000 souls, but that was beyond doubt a very great exaggeration, as the Iroquois in the days of their greatest glory did not number so many souls as that. However the Neuters were undoubtedly a strong people and were scattered over a considerable region of country. The Eries also lived along the lake that now bears their name.

Northwest of the Neuter Nation dwelt the Algonquins or Hurons, reaching to the shores of the great lake which bears their name, while to the eastward was the home of those powerful confederates whose fame has extended throughout the world, whose civil policy has been the wonder of sages, whose warlike achievements have compelled the admiration of soldiers, whose eloquence has thrilled the hearts of the most cultivated hearers,—the brave, sagacious, and far-dreaded Iroquois. They then consisted of but five nations, and their “Long House,” as they termed their confederacy, extended from east to west through all the rich central portion of the present State of New York. The Mohawks were in the fertile valley of the Mohawk River; the Oneidas, the most peaceful of the Confederates, were beside the lake that still bears their name; the Onondagas were in the region of the lake so called, and in their territory, near the site of the present city of Syracuse, were lighted the council fires of the Confederacy; the Cayugas lived in and guarded the region of the lake called Cayuga; while westward from Seneca Lake ranged the fierce, untamable Sonnonthonans, better known as Senecas, the warriors *par excellence* of the Confederacy. Their villages reached westward to within thirty or forty miles of the Niagara, or to the vicinity of the present village of Batavia.

From what has already been narrated, and from what has otherwise been conceded as an established fact, the territory now embraced in this county was a part of the lands of the Senecas. In fact here was their favorite hunting and fishing resorts, but not within the region of the county is there understood to have been any extensive villages. To be sure during General Sullivan’s campaign against the Senecas a detachment of his army was sent to destroy the village near the mouth of Kashong Creek, but the village there was then of but recent establishment and was the trading post of Debartzch and Poudre. These ad-



venturous tradesmen had located some miles away from Kanandesaga (Geneva), where their operations would be less obstructed and where they might find less opposition. At the time of its destruction the village at Kashong was small, but there had been made some effort at improvement, as corn and vegetables had been planted about the place.

It has been said that the Indians never built breastworks, and that such defences were beyond their patience and skill. But they certainly did build palisades, frequently requiring much labor and ingenuity. When the French first visited Montreal they discovered an Indian town of fifty huts which was encompassed by three lines of palisades some thirty feet high, with one well secured entrance. On the inside was a rampart of timber, ascended by ladders, and supplied with heaps of stones ready to cast at an enemy. When Champlain with his allied Hurons, or Algonquins, and St. Francis Indians attacked the principal village of the Onondagas in October, 1615, he found it defended by four rows of interlaced palisades so strong that, notwithstanding the number of his force, he was unable to overcome the resistance of the Onondagas, and was compelled to retreat. Also, in Genesee County, in the town of Le Roy, was one of the largest fortresses in Western New York, which contained when first discovered great piles of round stones, evidently intended for use against assailants, and showing about the same progress in the art of war as was evinced by the palisade builders.

There are evidences, too, of fort or palisade constructions in Yates County, which were unquestionably the work of the Senecas. On the farm of Lewis Swarthout, in the town of Milo, on a slightly elevated piece of ground, there has been discovered the remnants of an old structure of some sort, but of what particular character there is no evidence to determine. Some of the older people of the town have a distinct recollection of hearing some talk of the "old fort" at or near that place, but all traces of its existence have long since disappeared. It is said also that an Indian burial ground was in the same vicinity; and Mr. Swarthout, the present owner of the property, says that in excavating for his barn foundation he found the skeleton of a buried human being. From these things we may fairly infer that there was probably an Indian fortification of some sort at this place, but to inquire concerning the necessity of such a structure in this interior land of the Senecas

would be putting forth a question unanswerable. In the town of Jerusalem, too, there is said to have been an ancient Indian structure of some sort, but all inquiries concerning its true character have produced no substantial or satisfactory results.

The land of the Senecas included an immense area, and throughout its whole extent they traveled and dwelt sometimes in one locality and again in another, as best suited the Indian fancy. Their principal villages in this locality were at Ganundagwa and Kanandesaga (Canandaigua and Geneva), the one at the foot of Canandaigua and the other at the foot of Seneca Lake. Between these points ran the principal trail used by the Iroquois in traversing their "Long House." Up and down Seneca Lake on both sides were other principal trails, while another of lesser importance led from Kanandesaga to the foot of Keuka Lake, known to the Indians as *Ogoyaga*.

Between the Iroquois and the Hurons there prevailed a deadly enmity, while the hostility between the former and the Eries was scarcely less fervent. Betwixt these contending foemen the peaceful Kahquahs long maintained their neutrality, and the warriors of the East, of the Northwest, and of the Southwest suppressed their hatred for the time as they met by the council fires of these aboriginal peacemakers. Down to about the year 1641 the Kahquahs succeeded in maintaining their neutrality between the fierce belligerents on either side, though the Jesuit missionaries reported them as being more friendly to the Senecas of the Iroquois than to the Hurons. What cause of quarrel arose between the peaceful possessors of the lake shore and their whilom friends, the Confederates, is entirely unknown, but some time during the next fifteen years the Iroquois fell upon both the Kahquahs and Eries and exterminated them as a nation from the face of the earth. The precise years in which these events occurred are uncertain, nor is it known which of the tribes first felt the deadly anger of the Five Nations. French accounts favor the view that the Neuter Nation was first destroyed, while according to Seneca tradition the Kahquahs still dwelt on their land when the Iroquois annihilated the Eries.

The Seneca tradition just referred to runs somewhat as follows: The Eries had been jealous of the Iroquois from the time the latter formed their confederacy. About the time under consideration the Eries chal-

lenged their rivals to a grand game of ball, a hundred men on a side, for a heavy stake of furs and wampum. After two years the challenge, being thus often repeated, was accepted with result in the Eries' defeat. The vanquished then proposed a foot-race between ten of the fleetest young men on each side, and again the Iroquois were successful. Still later, at the home of the Kahquahs, the Eries proposed a wrestling match between ten champions on each side, the victor in each match to have the privilege of knocking out his adversary's brains with a tomahawk. In the first bout the Iroquois was successful, but declined to play the part of executioner. The chief of the Eries, infuriated by his champion's defeat, himself struck the unfortunate wrestler dead as he lay supine where his victor had flung him. Another and another of the Eries was in the same way conquered by the Iroquois and in the same way was dispatched by his wrathful chief. The jealousy and hatred of the Eries was still more inflamed by defeat, and they soon laid a plan to surprise and if possible destroy the Iroquois, but a Seneca woman, who had married among the Eries and was then a widow, fled to her own people and gave notice of the attack. At once the men of the Confederacy were assembled and led forth to meet the invaders. The two bodies met near Honeoye Lake, half way between Canandaigua and the Genesee. After a terrible conflict the Eries were totally routed, the flying remnants pursued to their homes, and the whole nation almost completely destroyed. It was five months before the Iroquois warriors returned from their deadly pursuit. Afterward a powerful party of the descendants of the Eries came from the far West to attack the Iroquois, but were utterly defeated and slain to a man. Such is the tradition. It is a very pretty story—for the Iroquois. According to their own account their opponents were the aggressors throughout, the young men of the Five Nations were invariably victorious in the athletic games, and nothing but self-preservation induced them to destroy their enemies.

From the destruction of the unfortunate Kahquahs and Eries down to the time of the last great sale of land by the Iroquois those Confederates were the actual possessors of the territory that now includes Yates County and as well the major portion of all that is now the State of New York. For all these 230 years the Iroquois have been closely

identified with the history of this county, and the beginning of this community of record forms a proper point at which to introduce an account of the interior structure of that remarkable Confederacy at which we have before taken but an outside glance.

It should be said here that the name "Iroquois" was never applied by the Confederates to themselves. It was first used by the French and its true meaning is veiled in obscurity. In the province of Ontario an old map showed a tribe of Indians called "Couis," living near the site of Kingston, while another map designated the territory then occupied by the Iroquois as belonging to the "Hiro Couis." Plainly this is the derivation of Iroquois, but as to the meaning of "Hiro" or "Couis" there remains great doubt. The men of the Five Nations (afterward the Six Nations) called themselves "Hedonosaunee,"<sup>1</sup> which means literally "They form a cabin," describing in this expressive manner the close union existing among them. The Indian name just above quoted is more liberally and commonly rendered "The People of the Long House," which is more fully descriptive of the Confederacy, though not quite so accurate a translation.

The central and unique characteristic of the Iroquois League was not the mere fact of five separate tribes being confederated together, for such unions have been frequent among civilized and half civilized peoples, though little known among the savages of America. The feature that distinguished the people of the Long House from all other confederacies, and which at the same time bound together all these ferocious warriors as with a living chain, was the system of clans extending through all the different tribes. Although this clan system has been treated of in many works there are doubtless thousands of readers who have often heard of the warlike success and outward greatness of the Iroquois Confederacy, but are unacquainted with the inner league, which was its distinguishing characteristic, and without which it would in all probability have met at an early day with the fate of numerous similar alliances. The word *clan* has been adopted as the most convenient one to designate the peculiar artificial families about to be described, but the Iroquois clan was entirely different from the Scottish one, all the members of which owed undivided allegiance to a single chief, for whom they

<sup>1</sup> Morgan's map of the Iroquois country gives the name thus: *Ho-de-no-sau-nee-ga*.



were ready to fight against all the world. Yet "clan" is a much better word than "tribe," which is sometimes used, since that is a designation ordinarily applied to a separate Indian nation.

The people of the Iroquois Confederacy were divided into eight clans, the names of which were as follows: Wolf, Bear, Beaver, Turtle, Deer, Snipe, Heron, and Hawk. Accounts differ, some declaring that every clan extended through all the tribes, and others that only the Wolf, Bear, and Turtle clans did so, the rest being restricted to a lesser number of tribes. It is certain, however, that each tribe, Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, or Senecas, contained parts of the three clans named and of several of the others. Each clan formed a large artificial family, modeled on the natural family. All the members of the clan, no matter how widely separated among the other tribes, were considered as brothers and sisters to each other, and were forbidden to intermarry. This prohibition was strictly enforced by public opinion. All the clans being thus taught from earliest infancy that they belonged to the same family, a bond of the strongest kind was thus created throughout the Confederacy. The Oneida of the Wolf clan had no sooner appeared among the Cayugas than those of the same clan claimed him as their special guest, and admitted him to the most confidential intimacy. The Senecas of the Turtle clan might wander to the country of the Mohawks, at the farthest extremity of the Long House, and he had a claim upon his brother Turtle which they did not dream of repudiating.

Thus the whole Confederacy was linked together. If at any time there appeared a tendency toward conflict between the different tribes it was instantly checked by the thought that if persisted in the hand of the Heron must be lifted against his brother Heron; the hatchet of the Bear might be buried in the brain of his kinsman Bear. And so potent was the feeling that for at least 200 years, and until the power of the League was broken by overwhelming outside force, there was no serious dissension between the tribes of the Iroquois.

Iroquois tradition ascribes the founding of the league to an Onondaga chieftain named Tadodahoh. Such traditions, however, are of very little value. A person of that name may or may not have founded the Confederacy. It is extremely probable that the League began with the union of two or three tribes, being subsequently increased by the addi-

tion of others. That such additions might have been made may be seen by the case of the Tuscaroras, whose union with the Confederacy in 1712, long after the advent of the Europeans, changed the Five Nations into the Six Nations. Whether the Hedonosaunee were originally superior in valor and eloquence to their neighbors cannot now be ascertained. Probably not; but their talent for practical statesmanship gave them the advantage in war and success made them self-confident and fearless. The business of the League was necessarily transacted in a congress of sachems, and this fostered oratorical powers until at length the Iroquois were famous among a hundred rivals for wisdom, courage, and eloquence, and were justly denominated by Volney the "Romans of the New World."

Aside from the clan system just described, which was entirely unique, the Iroquois League had some resemblance to the great American Union which succeeded and overwhelmed it. The central authority was supreme on questions of peace and war and on all others relating to the general welfare of the Confederacy, while tribes, like the States, reserved to themselves the management of their ordinary affairs. In peace all power was confided to "sachems"; in war to "chiefs." The sachems of each tribe acted as its rulers in the few matters which required the exercise of civil authority. The same rulers also met in congress to direct the affairs of the Confederacy. There were fifty in all, of whom the Mohawks had nine, the Oneidas nine, the Onondagas fourteen, the Cayugas ten, and the Senecas eight. These numbers, however, did not give the proportionate representation in the congress of the League, for all the nations were equal there.

There was in each tribe the same number of war chiefs as sachems, and these had absolute authority in time of war. When a council assembled each sachem had a war chief standing behind him to execute his orders. But in a war party the war chief commanded and the sachem took his place in the ranks. This was the system in its simplicity. Some time after the arrival of the Europeans they seem to have fallen into the habit of electing chiefs (not war chiefs) as counselors to the sachems, who in time acquired equality of power with them and were considered as their equals by the whites in the making of treaties.

It is difficult to learn the truth regarding a political and social system

which was not preserved by any written record. As near as can be ascertained the Onondagas had a certain pre-eminence in the councils of the League, at least to the extent of always furnishing the grand sachem, whose authority, however, was of a very shadowy description. It is not certain that he ever presided in the congress of sachems. That congress, however, always met at the council fire of the Onondagas. This was the natural result of their central position, the Mohawks and Oneidas being east of them, the Cayugas and Senecas to the west. The Senecas were unquestionably the most powerful of all the tribes, and as they were located at the western extremity of the Confederacy they had to bear the brunt of war when it was assailed by its most formidable foes who dwelt in that quarter. It would naturally follow that the principal war chief of the league should be of the Seneca nation, and such is said to have been the case, though over this, too, hangs a shadow of doubt.

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As among many other savage tribes the right of heirship was in the female line. A man's heirs were his brother and his sister's son ; never his own son nor his brother's son. The few articles which constituted an Indian's personal property, even his bow and tomahawk, never descended to the son of him who had wielded them. Titles, so far as they were hereditary at all, followed the same law of descent. The child also followed the clan and tribe of the mother. The object of this was evidently to secure greater certainty that the heir would be of the blood of his deceased kinsman.

The result of the application of this rule to the Iroquois system of clans was that if a particular sachemship or chieftiancy was once established in a certain clan of a certain tribe, in that clan and tribe it was expected to remain forever. Exactly how it was filled when it became vacant is a matter of some doubt, but as near as can be learned the new official was elected by the warriors of the clan, and was then "raised up," *i. e.*, inaugurated by the congress of sachems. If, for instance, a sachemship belonging to the Wolf clan of the Seneca tribe became vacant it could only be filled by some one of the Wolf clan of the Seneca tribe. A clan council was called, and as a general rule the heir of the deceased was chosen to his place, to-wit.: One of his brothers, reckoning only on the mother's side, or one of his sister's sons, or even some

more distant male relative in the female line. But there was no positive law and the warrors might discard all these and elect some one entirely unconnected with the deceased. A grand council of the Confederacy was then called, at which the new sachem was formally "raised up," or as we should say "inaugurated" in his office. And while there was no unchangeable custom compelling the clan-council to select one of the heirs of the deceased as his successor the tendency was so strong in that direction that an infant was frequently chosen, a guardian being appointed to perform the functions of the office till the youth should reach the proper age to do so. All offices were held for life unless the incumbent was solemnly deposed by a council, an event which very seldom occurred.

Notwithstanding the modified system of hereditary power in vogue the constitution of every tribe was essentially republican. Warriors, old men, and even women attended the various councils and made their influence felt. Neither in the government of the Confederacy nor of the tribes was there any such thing as tyranny over the people, though there was a great deal of tyranny by the League over conquered nations. In fact there was very little government of any kind and but little need of any. There were substantially no property interests to guard, all land being in common and each man's personal property being limited to a bow, arrows, tomahawk, and a few deer skins. Liquor had not yet lent its disturbing influence and few quarrels were to be traced to the influence of woman, for the American Indian of that day was singularly free from the warmer passions. His principal vice was an easily aroused and unlimited hatred, but the tribes were so small and enemies so convenient that there was no difficulty in gratifying this feeling outside his own nation. The consequence was that, although the war parties of the Iroquois were continually shedding the blood of their foes, there was very little quarreling at home. They do not appear to have any class especially set apart for religious services, and their religious creed was limited to a somewhat vague belief in a "Great Spirit" and several inferior but very potent evil spirits. They had a few simple ceremonies, consisting largely of dances, one called the "green corn dance," performed at the time indicated by its name, and others at various seasons of the year. From a very early date their most important



religious ceremony was the "burning of the white dog," when an unfortunate canine of the requisite color was sacrificed by one of the chiefs. To this day the pagans among them still perform this rite.

In common with their fellow savages on this continent the Iroquois have been termed "fast friends and bitter enemies." They were a great deal stronger enemies than friends. Revenge was the ruling passion of their nature and cruelty was their abiding characteristic. Revenge and cruelty are the worst attributes of human nature and it is idle to talk of the goodness of men who roasted their captives at the stake. All Indians were faithful to their own tribes and the Iroquois were faithful to their Confederacy, but outside of these limits their friendship could not be counted on and treachery was always to be apprehended in dealing with them. In their family relations they were not harsh to their children and not wantonly so to their wives, but the men were invariably indolent, and all labor was contemptuously abandoned to the weaker sex. They were not an amorous race, but could not well be called a moral one. In that respect they were merely apathetic. Their passions rarely led them into adultery and mercenary prostitution was entirely unknown, but they were not sensitive on the question of purity and readily permitted their maidens to form the most fleeting alliances with distinguished visitors. Polygamy, too, was practiced, though in what might be called moderation. Chiefs and eminent warriors usually had two or three wives, but rarely more. They could be divorced at will by their lords, but the latter seldom availed themselves of their privileges.

Such was the character of the Iroquois Confederacy and such were the characteristics of its tribes and people. For 130 years they were undisputed masters and for upwards of two centuries they were in possession of the territory now included within the county of Yates.

After the overthrow of the Kahquahs and Eries the Iroquois lords of this region of country went forth conquering and to conquer. Stimulated, but not yet crushed by contact with the white man, they stayed the progress of the French into their territories, they negotiated on equal terms with the Dutch and English, and having supplied themselves with the terrible arms of the pale-faces they smote with direst vengeance whomsoever of their own race were so unfortunate as to pro-

voke their wrath. On the Susquehanna, the Allegheny, the Ohio, even to the Mississippi in the West and the Savannah in the South, the Iroquois bore their conquering arms, filling with terror the dwellers alike on the plains of Illinois and in the glades of the Carolinas. They strode over the bones of the slaughtered Kahquahs to new conquests on the Great Lakes beyond, even to the foaming cascades of Michillimacinac and the shores of the mighty Superior. They inflicted such terrible defeat upon the Hurons, despite the alliance of the latter with the French, that many of the conquered nation sought safety on the frozen borders of Hudson's Bay. In short they triumphed on every side save only where the white man came, and even he for a time was held at bay by these fierce Confederates.

The foregoing narrative is in brief an outline history of the famous Iroquois Confederacy from the time of the supposed Indian occupancy of the territory by their ancestors down to the early permanent settlements by the whites. From what has already been stated the reader has learned that the Seneca tribe, who occupied the immediate territory now of Yates County, were the possessors and dwellers hereabouts, and with them directly and with the Confederacy generally were had the negotiations that eventually led to the sale of their lands to the Massachusetts Company. They were first induced to dispose of their lands to the obnoxious lessee company through the means of a perpetual lease, but that disposition was held by the power of the State to be invalid and the lease was consequently nullified.

But the events just referred to occurred at a much later period, at a time when the power of the Confederacy had become substantially broken. The greatest blow against the strength of the Senecas was struck by General Sullivan in his memorable campaign against them during the progress of the Revolution. At this time, too, another corps of leaders was in the field in command of the local occupants of the soil. The conquest over all the other Indian nations by the Iroquois was made somewhere between the years 1640 and 1655, before white settlement had made any substantial progress in Western New York or the territory afterward so called. Therefore it will be observed that the negotiations and treaties for the extinguishment of Indian titles occurred more than a century after the Iroquois made their conquering

tour, and that none of the red warriors who participated in the early struggle could have been living when the more peaceful conquest of their territory was made by the whites. But this is a subject that will be more fully discussed in another chapter of the present volume.

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### CHAPTER III.

Early explorations and Discoveries — The French in Canada — The Puritans in New England — The English in Virginia — The Dutch in New York — Founding of New France — Champlain incurs the enmity of the Iroquois — Its after Effects — Adventures of De Nonville and La Salle — Neutrality of the Iroquois during the early French Wars — The French make friends with the Senecas — Joncaire's Influence — French forts built in the Seneca Country — Discomfiture of the English — The Final Wars — Extinction of French power in America.

FULL four hundred years ago Christopher Columbus first set foot upon North American soil. He was sailing in the interest of the government of Spain, and the reports of his voyage soon induced other European powers to fit out similar exploring expeditions for a like purpose, the extension of their influence and domain in the New World. Within a very few years after the discovery of America by Columbus we find the French government sending out Jacques Cartier upon an errand similar to that of Spain, but the latter navigator touched the northeast coast, entered the St. Lawrence River, and gave to that stream the name it still bears. These were but the beginning of discoveries, and although an occasional visit was afterward made to the country by some adventurous navigators it was more than 100 years later before any explorers ventured into the region of what afterward became Western New York. In 1603 Samuel de Champlain made a voyage to the country, having in view the fur trade, but the result of which was the establishment of a new colony. On the occasion of his second visit in 1608 and 1609 he planted the settlement and explored the region of the St. Lawrence, though but to a limited extent. He, during the latter year, voyaged up Lake Champlain, which he so called in allusion to his own

name; he also discovered and named Lake St. Sacramento, but now Lake George. Upon the occasion of this voyage Champlain was accompanied by two other Frenchmen and a party of Huron and Algonquin Indians, and while on his part the voyage was one of discovery and exploration the Indians on the contrary were actuated by other motives, for they hoped to bring on a battle with the Iroquois in the belief that with their European allies supplied with firearms they would terrify and conquer their antagonists, which proved to be the case, as the parties met in battle near Lake St. Sacramento, and at the first discharge of their weapons by the Frenchmen two Iroquois chiefs were killed, while the others were so amazed at the noise and fatal effect of the guns that they fled in terror. Commenting upon this occurrence in particular, and upon the progress of settlement thus far, Turner says:

“This was the first battle of which history gives us any account in a region where armies since often met. And it marks another era, the introduction of firearms in battle to the natives in all the northern portion of this continent. They had now been made acquainted with the two elements that were destined to work out principally their decline and gradual extermination. They had tasted French brandy upon the St. Lawrence, English rum upon the shores of the Chesapeake, and Dutch gin upon the banks of the Hudson. They had seen the mighty engines, one of which was to conquer them in battle and the other was to conquer them in peace councils where cessions of their domain were involved.”

From the time of his first voyage to the St. Lawrence country down to the year 1627, when Cardinal Richelieu organized the Company of New France, otherwise known as the Company of a Hundred Partners, the Marquis Champlain was a frequent visitor to the region, and by that time a considerable number of Frenchmen had become colonists in America. But as early as 1615 an association of French merchants had secured a charter to lands in America indefinite and almost unlimited in extent, and to the entire region was given the name of New France. Although there appears no record by which the fact can be demonstrated, yet it is generally conceded that the French claim included the whole Genesee country, as afterward called, and therefore included what is now Yates County. And although at that time explorations



had not extended into this part of the country all European nations recognized the right of discovery as constituting a valid title to lands occupied only by scattered barbarians, but there were numerous disputes as to application and especially as to the amount of surrounding country which each discoverer could claim on behalf of his sovereign. But during this same period other powers than France and Spain were also active in the work of planting colonies in the new country. In 1606 King James granted to the Plymouth Company the territory of New England, but it was not until the year 1620 that any permanent settlement was made under that grant. On the 9th of November of that year the *Mayflower* with its Pilgrim Fathers landed on American territory and afterward founded the colony at Plymouth. In 1607 an English expedition entered Chesapeake Bay and founded the colony at Jamestown, that being the oldest English settlement in the land. In 1609 the doughty English navigator, Henry Hudson, while in the employ of the Dutch East India Company, discovered the river which bears his name, and soon after that time the Hollanders established fortified trading posts at its mouth and at Albany and had opened commerce in furs. They, too, made an indefinite claim of territory westward. Thus at the end of 1620 there were three distinct streams of immigration with three attendant claims of sovereignty converging toward a common center. Let but the French at Montreal, the English in New England, and the Dutch on the Hudson all continue the work of colonization, following the natural channels, and all would ultimately meet in the Genesee country. In the work of advancing settlements the best opportunities lay with the French, while the Dutch were second and the English last.

The French were by far more active in advancing their settlements than were either the Dutch or the English. The Company of a Hundred Partners had agreed to transport to the Canadian territory a colony of 6,000 emigrants, and to furnish them with an ample supply both of priests and artisans. Champlain was made governor of the colony and province, but his experiences for a few years were unfortunate. England and France were at war and a British fleet sailed up the St. Lawrence and captured Quebec. The French, too, suffered sorely at the hands of the Iroquois, whose territory Champlain and the Huron-

Algonquins had invaded. They, the Iroquois, about the time of the capture of Quebec, made an expedition against the Canadian residents, both French and Indians, with disastrous results to the latter. But at length a peace was declared between the contending countries and the New France was again restored to its discoverers, and Champlain resumed charge of its governmental affairs.

With this restoration of peace and power the French became at once active in extending their possessions and influence. In this duty the van was led by the ever zealous Jesuit priests and missionaries. They first made firm friends with the savages throughout the Canadian region of country and gradually stretched out to the westward, reaching in a few years as far as the western shores of Lake Huron. But as energetic as they might be in extending their possessions in that direction the Frenchmen carefully avoided for a long time any contact with the Senecas of the Iroquois, for Champlain's foolish and wanton attack near Lake George had incurred for him the most bitter enmity of the Confederacy, and all the arts and influence of the priests failed to overcome or pacify them. However, in 1640, the Reverend Fathers Bréboeuf and Chaumonot, after their labors in the Western country, made a visit to the Neuter Nation and during the succeeding year to the Kahquahs, but not with either people did they succeed in establishing a foothold. But the Neuters and the Kahquahs received the Jesuits and harbored them for a time, which, coming to the knowledge of the Senecas, in a measure at least aroused the ire of the Confederacy and may possibly have contributed as an auxiliary event that finally led to the destruction of the peaceful nations.

But as years passed away the men of the Iroquois Confederacy became more and more accustomed to the presence of white faces. In 1677 Wentworth Greenhalgh, an Englishman, visited the Five Nations and counted not only their villages, but their inhabitants as well. At that time he reported the Senecas as having 1,000 warriors; the Cayugas 300; the Onondagas 350; the Oneidas 200; and the Mohawks 300. From this we may discover that the aggregate number of Iroquois in 1677 was 2,150 men. But in 1712, by the acquisition of the Tuscaroras, who had been driven out of the Carolinas by the whites and allied Pohattans, the strength of the Confederacy was considerably augmented,

then numbering about 2,600 warriors. But the power of the Iroquois league was at last doomed to be broken. In 1669 Robert Cavelier de la Salle, a Frenchman of excellent family, rich in purse, and filled with love of country and love of adventure, with only two companions, made a visit to the Seneca country, explored the region more thoroughly than had any predecessor, and drove the entering wedge which ultimately separated a portion of the Senecas from their brothers, thus weakening the power of the Iroquois. In 1678 La Salle received a commission from King Louis XIV. to discover the western part of New France, and in the next year the adventurer succeeded in penetrating the strongholds of the Senecas. He was authorized by the King to build forts and defences, but at his own expense, being granted in return the right to trade in furs and skins. Under La Salle's authority was made the visit to the Seneca country by Father Hennepin, the somewhat famous priest and historian from whose record has come the greater portion of all that is written by subsequent authorities on the subject of Indian history and tradition.

In the fall of 1678 La Salle and his followers commenced the construction of a sloop, but it was not completed and launched until the succeeding spring. His men worked constantly, while meats for their subsistence were supplied by two Indians of the Wolf clan of the Seneca tribe. On the 7th of August, 1679, with a crew of thirty men, *Le Griffon* (*The Griffin*) set sail for a tour of the lakes and the exploration of the western part of New France. For a period of nearly half a century after the adventures of La Salle the French maintained a nominal though not substantial ascendancy in this region of the country. They made a foothold among some of the Senecas, but the great body of that tribe, true to their league with the eastern Indians, were but little inclined to forget, much less to forgive, the wrongs perpetrated by Champlain, and every movement on the part of the Frenchmen was watched with jealous interest. The Jesuits labored and the traders bartered with the Indians, and while the savages received one party and traded with the other they felt no interest in the welfare of the visitors. In 1687 the Marquis de Nonville, governor of New France, made a landing at Irondequoit Bay with nearly 2,000 French troops and about 500 Canadian Indians. True to their instincts the Senecas attacked the invaders as they were about

to lay battle to one of their villages, but as the Senecas only numbered about 800 they were defeated. They burned their villages and fled to the Cayugas, leaving the Frenchmen for the time masters of the Genesee country. This victory of the almost unconquerable Senecas was a great achievement for the French, for it gave them a strong footing in the lake region and so disheartened the former possessors of the locality, the Senecas, that they abandoned their late villages and took up their homes at Kanandesaga (Geneva) and on the Genesee River above Avon.

De Nonville then sailed to the mouth of the Niagara, where he erected a small fort on the east side of the river. This was the origin of Fort Niagara, one of the most celebrated strongholds of the country, and was the key of Western New York and of the whole upper lake country. And in later years, when the American colonies were struggling to throw off the British yoke, the remnant of Senecas left from Sullivan's destructive expedition against them made this point their place of refuge during the remaining years of the Revolution. In 1687 De Nonville, the French commander, drove the Senecas from the region of Fort Niagara, but in 1779 General Sullivan reversed the order of things and drove them back from the eastern part of the Genesee country to their ancient home on the Niagara. And while the French were the direct cause of their former leaving they were also indirect auxiliaries in compelling their return.

But the French did not long succeed in maintaining the positions they had gained in the land of the Senecas. De Nonville soon returned to Montreal, leaving a few troops to garrison the fort, and they became so weakened through sickness that the post was abandoned and not again occupied for nearly forty years. By this time, too, the whole Iroquois Confederacy had become aroused by the intrusions of the French, and under British instigation made an attack upon their stronghold and seat of operations at Montreal. In 1688 came the English revolution, followed immediately by open war with France. Count de Frontenac was governor-general of New France under the French rule at this period, but his administration was no more successful than was that of his predecessor. He, too, invaded the country of the Iroquois, but the result was a success to his arms. The war was continued



with varying fortunes until 1697, during which time, on this side of the Atlantic, hostilities were constant. The English colonists in America were lending substantial aid to the Indians and constantly inciting them to depredations against the now common enemy. During this period the Senecas again possessed their ancient land, but the not infrequent visits of French troops had the effect of deterring them from attempting a permanent occupation.

The war between England and France was terminated by the Treaty of Ryswick in 1697, and by which was divined to a certain extent the possessions in America of the contending nations, but there were no certain provisions relating to the lands of the Senecas. The English claimed sovereignty over the entire region of country occupied by the Five Nations, while the French likewise asserted their rights to the same rich district; but in actual possession of the disputed territory were the Iroquois themselves, who repudiated alike the claims of both Yonondio and Corlear, as they denominated the governors respectively of Canada and New York.

Following close upon the peace of Ryswick came Queen Anne's war, an event having its outbreak in 1702; and by which the rival nations, the English and French, again had recourse to arms. During this conflict the Iroquois maintained a strict neutrality, thus commanding the respect of both contending governments: of the French because they dreaded the results of again arousing the fierce Confederates, and of the English for the reason that the Iroquois country furnished a shield of protection all along the frontier colonies. However during the progress of Queen Anne's war the French profited by the neutrality of the Five Nations, for they were given an opportunity of strengthening their line of positions and fortifications. Moreover, being at acknowledged peace with the Iroquois, their missionaries and politic leaders could visit the Senecas in entire safety, and the result was the establishment of a friendly relation between the French and the Senecas and a part of the Cayugas. So rapidly, indeed, was this friendship formed and so firmly rooted had become the relation between the French and the Senecas that the latter were almost ready to take up arms against the English, and that despite the neutrality of the Confederacy and the bonds of union that bound together its members.

About this same time another occurrence worked to the great advantage and favor of the French among the Senecas. Chabert Joncaire, a French youth, had been captured by the Senecas and was adopted by and grew up among them. He married a Seneca wife, but was released by the tribe from any compulsion of remaining among the Indians. Thereupon Joncaire was employed by the French to promote their influence with the natives. Pleading his claims as an adopted child of the tribe he was given permission by the chiefs to build a cabin on the site of Lewistown, which soon became the center of French influence. This was the source of much anxiety and discomfort to the English, and all their influence with the eastern tribes was not sufficient to dislodge him. "Joncaire is a child of the Nation" was the reply made to every complaint.

Whether due to the influence of Joncaire among the Senecas or to some other cause is not fully known, but the French soon succeeded in lodging themselves firmly in the affections of the tribe. In 1725 they commenced rebuilding Fort Niagara and completed the task without opposition, and by so doing came into possession of one of the most important and strong posts in the country. The French undoubtedly were poor colonizers, but they nevertheless possessed the peculiar faculty of ready assimilation with savage and half-civilized races, thus gaining an influence over them. Whatever the cause, the power of the French constantly increased among the Senecas. The influence of Joncaire was maintained and increased by his half-breed sons, Chabert and Clauzonne, all through the second quarter of the eighteenth century.

In 1744 was begun another war between England and France, during which the Six Nations (being increased from Five Nations by the acquisition of the Tuscaroras in 1712) generally maintained a neutrality, although the Mohawks gave some aid to the English. This outbreak was closed by the Treaty of Aix-la Chapelle in 1748, and a nominal peace of eight years followed, although during the interval both countries were earnestly engaged in increasing their possessions, strengthening their fortifications, and preparing for the inevitable outbreak which must end the dominion in America of the one or the other.

The storm of war broke in 1756, after two years of open hostilities. The Mohawks again took up arms with the English, but the Senecas,

notwithstanding their affection for the French, were unwilling to go to battle against their friends at the eastern door of the Long House. The friendship of the Mohawks for the English was gained through the influence of Sir William Johnson, the skillful English superintendent of Indian affairs, and who had come to America in 1734 as the agent of his uncle, the latter being an extensive landowner in the Mohawk Valley. At the commencement of the last great struggle for supremacy in America the French were everywhere victorious. Braddock, almost at the gates of Fort Duquesne, was slain and his army cut in pieces. Montcalm captured Oswego, and the French lines up the lakes and across to the Ohio were stronger than ever. In the next year the tide of victory set toward the British arms. Duquesne was recaptured by the Throne, while to the northward Frontenac was siezed by Bradstreet, and other victories prepared the way for still grander success in 1759. Then Wolfe assailed Quebec, the French stronghold in America; and almost at the same time General Prideaux with 2,000 British troops and provincials, accompanied by Sir William Johnson with a thousand faithful Iroquois, sailed up Lake Ontario and laid siege to Fort Niagara, which was defended by only 600 men. A strong resistance was made by the brave commander, but when his reinforcements were about to come they were ambushed by Sir William Johnson's fierce warriors and unmercifully slaughtered. Hearing of this disaster the garrison at once surrendered and Fort Niagara passed into the hands of the British, and with the capitulation was the end of French supremacy and dominion over any of the territory of New York. In September, 1760, the Marquis Vandreuil surrendered Montreal, and with it Detroit, Venango, and all the other posts within his jurisdiction. This surrender was ratified by the treaty of peace between England and France in the month of February, 1763, which ceded Canada to the former power.

This ended the French dominion in America. So far as the same applied to the locality of Yates County it had no special significance or importance except as this shire formed a part of the region that was claimed to be New France. That the Jesuit fathers visited this locality is quite probable, and it may have been through their agency that the old fort was built in the town of Milo. The chief seat of operations,

however, in this locality was at Canandaigua or at Geneva, at the foot of the respective Lakes Canandaigua and Seneca, and any pilgrimages to this immediate locality were merely incidental.

## CHAPTER IV.

The English Dominion — A brief *résumé* of Events — English conquest of the Dutch Settlements — Condition of the Indians — Still friendly to the French — Pontiac's League — The Senecas involved with Pontiac — Devil's Hole and Black Rock — Sir William Johnson makes friends with the Senecas — The Revolutionary War — Attitude of the Iroquois — Wyoming and Cherry Valley — Sullivan's Campaign — Destruction of Indian Villages — Cashong, in Yates County, Devastated — The Indians retire to Fort Niagara — Their treatment by the British — Close of the Revolution — Overthrow of British Rule — The United States of America.

THE preceding chapter has made mention of the fact that in 1606 King James made an extensive grant of land to the so-called Plymouth Company, and in pursuance of that grant the colony of New England was founded in 1620; and further, that under the authority of a similar grant from the same source, made in 1607, the colony of English settled in Virginia. The same power also made another charter, which was granted to John Smith, and which resulted in the founding an English settlement in what afterward became the Province and State of Maine. The same chapter likewise states that in 1609 Henry Hudson, in the employ of the Dutch East India Company, founded a colony where is now the city of New York, which was first settled by the Dutch, although the discoverer and navigator—Hudson—was himself an Englishman. But the Dutch settlement was not confined to the vicinity of New Amsterdam, as they called their ancient burgh, but their line of possessions extended up the Hudson River as far and even beyond the present city of Albany. On this site last named was erected a fortification called Fort Orange.

The rule of the Hollanders in the Netherlands, however, was not of long continuance. It commenced with the planting of their colony



soon after Hudson's discovery and closed with the year 1664, its people and patron government having become involved in a dispute with England and the latter proved the master. The claims of each power were founded on the right of discovery, but the English extended their settlements the more rapidly and soon occupied the territory of the Dutchmen. More than that England was the stronger power and granted away the lands of the region to an indefinite extent, and that without regard to rights or claims of other governments; and when there came a conflict over the right to possession the weaker was compelled to yield to the stronger power.

Having overcome the Dutch in 1664 the government of Great Britain next turned her attention to the French, and although the latter were by many years the prior occupants of the country and of this region, and had extended their settlements over a considerable country and claimed indefinitely westward and to the south, yet the English were not disposed to concede any rights to the French on this continent; therefore, after extending and fortifying their own settlements, war was declared against the French with the results as told in the preceding chapter. The outbreaks and conflicts between these powers were by no means confined to this side of the Atlantic, for at home was the chief seat of war, while on this side were heard and felt but the echoes and reverberations from abroad. With the English the principle that "might makes right" ever prevailed in extending and advancing their interests until that government finally came in conflict with the united American colonies in 1775 and the years following, during which period the mother country was taught a salutary lesson. There proved to be at least one country on the earth which she could not subdue nor conquer. But this is a subject which more appropriately belongs to later pages of this chapter.

Notwithstanding the results of the war between the French and the English, and the disappearance of the former from the region, the Western Indians were still disposed to remember with affection and were yet inclined to wage war upon the English. The celebrated Pontiac united nearly all these tribes in a league against the redcoats immediately after the advent of the latter; and as no such confederation had been formed against the French during their years of posses-

sion the action of Pontiac must be attributed to some other cause than mere hatred of all civilized intruders. In May, 1763, the league surprised nine out of twelve English posts and massacred their garrisons. There is no positive evidence to sustain the assertion, yet there is little doubt that the Senecas were involved in Pontiac's league, and were active in the fruitless attack upon Fort Niagara. They were unwilling to fight against their brothers of the Iroquois, but had no hesitation in killing the English soldiery when left alone, as was soon made terribly manifest in the awful tragedy at Devil's Hole in September, 1763, at which time a band of Senecas ambushed a train of English army-wagons with an escort of soldiers, in all ninety-six men, and massacred every man with four exceptions. And during the month of October of the same year the Senecas came in contact with a body of British troops who were on their way to re-enforce the post at Detroit. This battle took place within the limits of the present county of Erie. The victory was not for either side, but the Britons lost more men than did the Indians.

But at last becoming convinced that the French had really yielded up their claims and possessions in this country, and that Pontiac's scheme had failed as to its main purpose, the Senecas agreed to abandon their Gallic friends and be at peace with the English. In April, 1764, Sir William Johnson concluded a treaty of peace with eight chiefs of the refractory Senecas; and by the terms of the agreement there was conceded to the King of England a tract of land four by fourteen miles for a carrying-place around Niagara Falls. And it may further be said that by this time Sir William Johnson had succeeded in winning the affections of all the Iroquois tribes and had enlisted them under the banners of the King. The treaty made with the Senecas by Sir William Johnson was considered sufficiently conclusive, but it was at that time provided that the same should be ratified by a grand council of the Iroquois to be held at Fort Niagara during the following summer. Accordingly General Bradstreet, with 1,200 British and American soldiers, accompanied by Sir William and a large body of his Iroquois warriors, came to Fort Niagara as previously agreed. A grand council of the friendly Indians was held and satisfactory terms proposed and agreed upon, but the Senecas sullenly refused attendance at the pro-

ceedings and were said to be meditating a renewal of the war. At length General Bradstreet ordered their immediate presence at the council under penalty of the destruction of their settlements and villages, whereupon they came at once, ratified the treaty, and adhered to it pretty faithfully, notwithstanding the peremptory manner in which it was obtained.

The English had now established a peace with each tribe of the Iroquois Confederacy; and there was also then existing a peace between the frequently contending nations, England and France, consequently there was no strife among the civilized people on this side of the Atlantic. The Iroquois, though the seeds of dissension had been sown among them, were still a powerful confederacy, and their war parties occasionally made incursions among the Western Indians, generally returning with scalps or prisoners. The Senecas made frequent complaints of depredations committed by the whites or some of their number who had villages on the headwaters of the Susquehanna and Ohio. "Cressap's war," in which the celebrated Logan was an actor, contributed to render them uneasy, but they did not break out in open hostilities. They, like the rest of the Six Nations, had by this time learned to place every confidence in Sir William Johnson and made all their complaints through him. He did his best to redress their grievances, and sought to have them withdraw their villages from those isolated localities to their chief seats in New York, so that they would be more completely under his protection. Ere this could be done, however, the attention of all men was drawn to certain yet unmistakable mutterings in the political sky, low at first, but growing more and more angry, until at length there burst upon the country that long and desolating storm known as the Revolutionary war.

Sir William Johnson, who has been so frequently mentioned in this narrative, was an Irishman by birth, of good family, and well educated. In 1734<sup>1</sup> he was sent to America as the land agent of his uncle, Sir Peter Warren, an admiral in the English navy and the proprietor of large estates in this country. Sir William, soon after his arrival in America, was appointed superintendent of Indian affairs, and were it not for his skill in handling the savages it is quite likely that the entire Iro-

<sup>1</sup> Turner says 1737 or '38.



quois Confederacy would have become allied to the cause of the French. Associated with Sir William in his life and duties among the Indians was his son, Sir John Johnson, and his nephew, Col. Guy Johnson. After the death of Sir William in 1774 the son succeeded to his position of influence among the Six Nations, while the office of superintendent of Indian affairs was given to his nephew. When Tryon County was organized and set off from Albany County Guy Johnson was the "first" judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and was associated in that office with the afterward celebrated John Butler.

The war for American independence in fact commenced in the month of April, 1775, with the battle at Lexington, but before the actual outbreak, as the danger of hostilities increased, the Johnsons showed themselves clearly on the side of the King. Sir William said little and seemed greatly disturbed by the gathering troubles. There is little doubt, however, had he lived, that he would have used his power and influence in behalf of his royal master. But his sudden death terminated his career, while his position among the Indian tribes descended like an inheritance to his son and nephew. Upon the outbreak of the war the superintendent persuaded the Mohawks to remove westward with him, and made his influence felt over all the Six Nations except the Oneidas and Tuscaroras, though it was near two years from the breaking out of the war before they committed hostilities. John Butler established himself at Fort Niagara and joined a regiment of Tories known as Butler's Rangers, and he and the Johnsons used all their influence to induce the Indians to attack the Americans. The Senecas held off for awhile, but the prospect of both blood and gold was too much for them to withstand, and in 1777 they, in common with the Cayugas, Onondagas, and Mohawks, made a treaty with the British at Oswego, agreeing to serve the King throughout the war. Mary Jemison, the celebrated "white woman," then living among the Senecas on the Genesee, declares that at that treaty the British agents, after distributing presents among the Indians, promised a bounty on every scalp that should be brought in. However this is a question that has been widely debated.

As had characterized their actions on other occasions the Senecas were reluctant to attack or make war against their brothers of the Long House, but they did not withdraw from the British interest and remain

neutral during the years following 1777. They were relieved from any embarrassment by the fact that the Oneidas decided to take no active part in the war, while the Tuscaroras were confederates by comparatively recent adoption, having become members of the Iroquois League many years after its formation and were not brothers within the strict meaning of the clan system. From the latter part of 1777 the four tribes named were active in the British interests and Fort Niagara again became the center of operations, although the savage warriors were scattered all through the Genesee country and even eastward to the Susquehanna River. The most prominent chief of the Confederacy during the Revolutionary period was Joseph Brant, or Thayendenaga, a Mohawk who had received a moderate English education under the patronage of Sir William Johnson. The then conspicuous Seneca chiefs during the same period were Farmer's Brother, Cornplanter, and Governor Blacksnake, but which of these was leader is not well known. At the massacre at Wyoming the author of the "Life of Brant" says the chief in command of the Senecas was Guiengwahtoh, supposed to mean the same as Guiyahgwahdoh, "the smoke-bearer." That was the official title of the Seneca afterward known as "Young King," but the latter was then too young to have been at Wyoming, yet his predecessor (probably his maternal uncle) might have been there. Brant was certainly not there. At Cherry Valley, following the slaughter at Wyoming, the Senecas were present in force together with a body of Mohawks under Brant and a party of Tories under Capt. Walter Butler.

These and other similar events, the sudden and unexpected attacks upon frontier settlements and outposts, and the merciless slaughter of their inhabitants induced General Washington and Congress to set on foot an expedition in the spring of 1779, having for its object a retaliation upon the Indians and especially upon the Senecas for the outrages perpetrated by them down to that time. This duty devolved upon Gen. John Sullivan, who at that time was an officer in the American army. The full force organized for the expedition amounted to 5,000 men, which was formed in three divisions. Sullivan himself commanded the troops that marched through and laid waste the Indian villages and improvements in the region of Seneca Lake; and as that was the only part of the several campaigns that is pertinent to this work

this narrative will be confined to the acts performed in the region hereabouts.

General Sullivan organized his force in Pennsylvania and ascended the Susquehanna to Tioga Point, where he was joined by Gen. James Clinton's force, the latter having come from the Mohawk country. From Tioga Point the combined forces proceeded westward to the Chemung River, where they found Tories, Indians, and British entrenched behind a breastwork of logs and earth. On the 29th of August the attack was made by Sullivan's men, and being well provided with artillery the work of demolishing the entrenchments was quickly done. The British and Tories fought manfully, but a portion of the Iroquois fled before the destructive canonade. However Brant succeeded in rallying a few of the Indians, who fought desperately from behind trees, bushes, rocks, or whatever place afforded concealment or protection. The battle continued about two hours, when the British and their allies were routed and fled in great disorder. This battle, which occurred on the site of the present city of Elmira, was the only regular engagement between the contending forces. The results here were so exceedingly disastrous to the Indians that wherever Sullivan's men afterward appeared the redskins fled in terror, and all that remained for the American troops to do was to burn and destroy the villages and growing crops which were found in the vicinity of the line of march.

From Chemung and Newtown Sullivan marched northward to the so-called "French Catharines town," at the head of Seneca Lake, thence down the lake on the east side to Kanandesaga, where was a village of some size. On the east side of the lake between Catharines town (Watkins) and Kanandesaga were several small Indian villages, all of which were destroyed. At the point last named Brant used every effort to induce his Iroquois warriors to make another stand against the invaders, but the attempt was of no avail. The Indians had already been severely punished and one of their chiefs, said to be the king of Kanandesaga, had been killed. This was enough for them and with Sullivan's appearance every village was abandoned. So it was at Kanandesaga, where it is said were about sixty houses with gardens and apple and peach orchards. Here Sullivan met with no opposition, and his men destroyed every building and all growing crops.

From this point detachments were sent out to lay waste other villages of small note. One of these was within the present county of Yates, at the point commonly called Kashong, on the creek which still bears that name, in the town of Benton, and on the farm recently owned by W. W. Coe. In regard to the destruction of this village that popular writer, W. L. Stone, says: "A detachment of 400 men was sent down on the west side of the lake to destroy 'Gotheseunquean' and the plantations in the neighborhood." The point designated unquestionably refers to the same now called Kashong or Cashong. The diary of Captain Fowler, in every way reliable, mentions the village as "Kash-anquash," while the official report of General Sullivan gives the name as "Gotheseunquean," already referred to above. Which is correct and which is incorrect is not material to this narrative, but, however spelled or pronounced, the objective point of destruction was, as stated, in the town of Benton, this county. There was no battle at Cashong, as in many other cases the inhabitants fled before the approach of the troops.

After using Kanandesaga as a base from which to operate in the destruction of Indian villages General Sullivan proceeded westward upon a like errand, and then in the same manner to the eastward, laying waste every possible thing that could be of use to the Indians or for their sustenance, after which the campaign was regarded as successful and complete. And such proved to be the case, for the Indian occupants withdrew themselves to the protection of Fort Niagara and in that locality they remained until after the close of the war.

The results of Sullivan's expedition are best summed up in quoting from the official account of General Washington, which in part was as follows: "Forty of their towns have been reduced to ashes, some of them large and commodious, that of Genesee alone containing 128 houses. Their crops of corn have been entirely destroyed, which, by estimation, it is said, would have provided 160,000 bushels, besides large quantities of vegetables of various kinds. Their whole country has been overrun and laid waste, and they themselves compelled to place their security in a precipitate flight to the British fortress at Niagara;—and the whole of this has been done with the loss of less than forty men on our part, including the killed, wounded, captured, and those who died natural deaths."



A preceding paragraph has incidentally mentioned the fact that the king of Kanandesaga was killed at the battle at Newtown or Elmira. The main fact was undoubtedly correct, but it is highly questionable whether the dead official held any such title as king, for no such office ever existed among the Iroquois Confederates. On the contrary reports go to show that Kayingwaurto was a subordinate Seneca chief and at that period in command of the Indians of that tribe who inhabited Kanandesaga and its vicinity. He was a chief and nothing more. A report of the death of the chief was brought to General Sullivan a few days after the battle at Newtown by an escaped prisoner, and after an accurate description the general remembered having seen such a warrior among the slain on the field of battle. On the person of the dead chief was found a written memorandum which strongly tends to prove the often disputed fact that the British agents agreed to a bounty for each white scalp taken by their redskinned allies. The paper found read as follows:

"This may certify that Kayingwaurto, the Sanakee chief, has been on an expedition to Fort Stanwix and taken two scalps, one from an officer and a corporal. They were gunning near the fort, for which I promise to pay at sight ten dollars for each scalp.

"Given under my hand at Buck's Island and the allies of his Majesty.

"JOHN BUTLER, Col. and Supt. of Six Nations."

As has already been stated the campaign of General Sullivan had the effect of driving the unfriendly Indians out of the eastern part of the Genesee country and of the State, and obliging them to seek refuge and protection at the British post at Fort Niagara. Not only had their villages been wholly destroyed, but as well their corn-fields and gardens, leaving them with no means of subsistence through the winter following. They were fed and otherwise provided for by the agents of Great Britain, but with the coming of spring an attempt was made to persuade them to return to their old haunts and cultivate crops for another winter's use. This effort was partially successful, but instead of returning to their ancient camps the Indians settled and established villages in the region of Fort Niagara, not being willing to venture again into the territory where they might be subjected to another destroying visit as Sullivan's men had inflicted upon them.

In the country around Niagara the squaw portion of the Indian population planted crops of corn and vegetables which yielded a harvest for

the succeeding winter. But the supply was not equal to the demand, and the natives again, in the winter of 1780-81, had recourse to their friends, the British. The warriors of the community were kept constantly busy by Guy Johnson and Colonel Butler marauding upon frontier settlements of their enemies, but the Indians had become so thoroughly broken up that they were unable to produce such devastation as at Wyoming and Cherry Valley. With the surrender of Cornwallis in October, 1781, there was a practical cessation of hostilities, but it was not until the fall of 1783 that peace was formally agreed upon between Great Britain and the revolted colonies, henceforth to be universally acknowledged as the United States of America. By the terms of the treaty then made the boundary lines between the British lands and the territory of the United States was established along the center of Lake Erie, the Niagara River, and Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, and northward and eastward to the Atlantic Coast. Still for several years the British posts on the American side were held in the possession of the King's soldiers, and the same leaders who controlled them during the war continued to exercise an unfriendly influence among them as against the United States and the State of New York.

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## CHAPTER V.

Situation of the Indians at the close of the Revolution — They are recognized as rightful owners of the Territory — Treaties for the purchase of Indian Titles — The Grand Council at Fort Stanwix — Red Jacket opposes the Sale — A brief sketch of the famous Chief — The Medal — The subject Resumed — Conflicting claims by New York and Massachusetts — Their Settlement — Massachusetts owns the Genesee Country — Yates County a part of it — The New York Genesee Land Company — The Niagara Genesee Land Company — They Lease from the Six Nations — Looking to the formation of a new State — Imitating the action of Vermont — The attempt Fails — Prompt action of Governor Clinton — The Compromise and its Reward.

**A**FTER the close of the Revolution it was found that the treaty agreement entered into between the previously contending governments had made no provision for the Indian allies of Great Britain. The English authorities offered them lands in Canada, but all the tribes except the Mohawks preferred to remain in New York.



They were entitled to no consideration at the hands of the United States government, for by their action in participating in the war on the side of England they had forfeited their right to possession and were in much the same position as was the English government in that respect—a conquered nation having lost their rights in a conflict at arms. But the United States and the State of New York treated the Indians with great moderation, and declined to avail themselves of their right to claim the lands formerly occupied by the Iroquois, and even admitted the unfortunate savages to the benefits of peace, although the latter had twice violated their pledges and plunged into a war against the colonies. However a property line, as it was called, was established between the whites and Indians, which line ran along the eastern boundary of Broome and Chenango Counties and thence northwestward to a point seven miles west of Rome.

Conceding after some discussion and dissension that the Indians had some rights in the territory formerly occupied by them the legislature of New York passed an act constituting the governor and certain other designated persons as superintendents of Indian affairs. George Clinton, then governor, assumed at once the responsible duties of arranging a council with the chiefs and sachems of the several tribes, and for this purpose sent emissaries to confer with the Indians and bring them if possible to an amicable understanding of the matter. After much labor and the lapse of considerable time a council was held at Fort Schuyler on the first of September, 1784. There were present the New York representatives together with deputations from the Mohawks, Cayugas, Onondagas, and Senecas. The Oneidas and Tuscaroras were not at first represented, but after three days they appeared. During the proceedings the Cayugas and Tuscaroras exhibited to the commissioners a letter from the committee of Congress, wherein it was stated that the Indians should not treat with representatives of New York, as the governor had no authority to conduct such council, but that the committee of Congress would meet the Indians in council at Fort Stanwix on the 20th of September "to settle a peace with all the Indian nations from the Ohio to the Great Lake." After distributing presents and provisions among the Indians Governor Clinton resolved to postpone further action until the arrival of the United States commissioners.

In the month of October, 1784, the treaty at Fort Stanwix was held. On the part of the United States there were present Commissioners Oliver Wolcott, Richard Butler, and Arthur Lee, while the celebrated Frenchman, Marquis de Lafayette, was with them in the capacity of interested spectator. The Indians were also present, being represented by chiefs and sachems. The proceedings of this first grand council had no special relation to the lands of this locality, but at the meeting there was brought into prominent notice one who is claimed to have been, and beyond question was, a native of the territory afterward erected into Yates County. This personage was the famous Red Jacket, who, though a youth at the time of the council, afterward became a conspicuous figure in the frequent treaty meetings. Upon the occasion above referred to Red Jacket was bitterly opposed to making any concessions whatever to the whites and openly advocated a renewal of the war. But in this effort Red Jacket was opposed by the noted war chief Cornplanter, and the council of the latter prevailed, with the result of a treaty fixing the western boundary of the territory to be considered as belonging to the Six Nations. Here the reader will pardon a slight digression from the general course of this narrative that he may take a glance at this celebrated son of Yates County, Red Jacket, although the son may be said to have occupied the somewhat anomalous position of being many years older than his parent.

Sagoyewatha, the Seneca name of the chief, was born near Branchport on the western arm of Ogoyago Lake, but as to the date of his birth there appears to be no record, nor is it known who of the Senecas were his parents. At the time of the treaty at Fort Stanwix the chief was a young man and had just been elevated to the position he held. He was the recognized orator of his tribe, not even second to the eloquent Cornplanter, but the latter held pre-eminence, was a warrior of mature years, and one who had carved his way to fame among his people through his cruel and merciless slaughter of white men, women, and children. As a speaker for his tribe and nation Sagoyewatha stood without a peer. Indeed so powerful was his speech at the treaty ground that Levasseur, the French writer who derived his information from Lafayette, said of him: "His speech was a masterpiece, and every warrior who heard him was carried away with his eloquence."

Red Jacket had, when a youth, heard a number of prominent speakers among the Indians, and he determined to and did instruct himself in the art of oratory ; and his first or maiden effort was made on the occasion referred to, and that brought to him the name of Sagoyewatha, "The Keeper Awake," or literally "he keeps them awake," as more descriptive of his oratorical powers. But among the whites he was generally called by the ridiculous appellation of Red Jacket, a name which he transmitted to his descendants.

He, too, had been an actor in the border wars, but had won no laurels in them. Brant and Cornplanter both hated him, declaring that he was both coward and traitor ; but theirs was the hatred of envy and jealousy. They were accustomed to tell of the time when he made a glowing speech urging the Senecas to battle, but while the conflict was going on was discovered cutting up the cow of another Indian which he had killed. After that he was frequently called "The Cow Killer," a name which was inserted in two or three public documents, but afterward crossed out and "Red Jacket" substituted.

The treason with which he was charged seems to have consisted in making several efforts for peace during Sullivan's campaign without the sanction of the war chiefs. At one time he is said to have secretly sent a runner to the American camp inviting a flag of truce. Brant heard of this and had the unlucky messenger intercepted and killed. Probably some of the stories of his timidity and treachery are false, but there were many of them and all pointed the same way. Notwithstanding all this such was the charm of his eloquence, and such the clearness of his intellect, that he rapidly gained in influence and was made a chief, that is a civil chief or counselor of the sachems.

At the beginning of the Revolution he was a youth of about twenty. The British officers had been attracted by his intelligence and frequently employed him as messenger, for which he was well qualified by his fleetness of foot and shrewdness of mind. They compensated him by a succession of red jackets, in which he took great pride and from which he derived his name. In later years Red Jacket had risen to a high position, being mentioned by Proctor as "the great speaker and a prince of the Turtle tribe." As a matter of fact, however, he belonged to the Wolf clan.

In 1792 Red Jacket and Farmer's Brother were two of fifty chiefs who visited the seat of government, then at Philadelphia. The former then claimed to be in favor of civilization, and it was at this time that Washington gave him the famous medal which he afterward wore on all great occasions. It was of silver, oval in form, about seven inches long by five wide, and represented a white man in a general's uniform presenting a pipe of peace to an Indian. The latter had flung down his tomahawk. Behind them is shown a house, a field, and a man plowing.

The manner in which Red Jacket acquired his characteristic name is told by his biographer: On one of his visits to the seat of government General Knox, then Secretary of War, presented the distinguished Seneca with the full uniform of a military officer, with cocked hat and all equipments complete. Red Jacket requested the bearer to inform Knox that he could not well wear military clothes, he being a civil sachem, not a war chief. If any such present was to be made to him he would prefer a suit of civilian's clothes, but would keep the first gift until the other was sent. In due time a handsome suit of citizen's clothes was brought to his lodging. The unsophisticated savage accepted it and then remarked to the bearer that in time of war the sachems went out on the war-path with the rest, and he would keep the military suit for such an occasion. And keep it he did. The foregoing anecdote is slightly at variance with the former statement that Red Jacket was first clothed in military uniform by the British officers, but the reader must do as in all tales of Indian heroes, read all and believe whichever best suits his convenience or fancy. But Yates County is not the only claimant to the place of nativity of Sagoyewatha or Red Jacket. A State Historical Gazetteer published some thirty years ago fixes his place of birth in the present town of Fayette in Seneca County, and the spot as being near Canoga Spring. This was undoubtedly an error, for there can be produced satisfactory evidence to show that the famous chief was born in what is now the town of Jerusalem in this county, and not far from the hamlet called Branchport. In fact it is said that Red Jacket himself told the late Judge Lewis that he was born at the place indicated.

After the treaty and great council at Fort Stanwix held by the com-



missioners respecting the general government the Board of Indian Affairs, under the authority of New York, met and frequently called the Indians together for the purpose of acquiring and purchasing their lands. The several councils thereafter held resulted each in the surrender on the part of the natives of vast tracts of their former territory, but in each and every case the authorities made to them a just compensation.

In this manner matters progressed favorably for some time, but of a sudden there arose a spirited controversy which in various forms involved the question of title or right to purchase, the greater part of which was due to the imperfect understanding had by the King of the situation and extent of territory in America. It was the custom of the sovereign to make extensive grants, charters, or patents of land to certain favorites, or for consideration, but with the most indefinite and uncertain boundaries. One of these vast and almost boundless areas was granted by King Charles to his brother James, the Duke of York, which included all the lands between the Connecticut River on the east and westward to the Delaware Bay, north to the province of Canada, and westward indefinitely. This neat little estate, had the title been subsequently confirmed as granted, would have included millions and millions of acres and would have made brother James "quite well off," to use a common expression; but the same ruler made another grant of territory to the Plymouth Company, which likewise extended several degrees of latitude north and south and stretched east and west from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The last mentioned grant was made in 1620 and the former in 1628, and of course that last made overlapped the first, but did not vacate or supercede it. The first grant, that made in 1620, founded the colony tract for New England, while the latter eventually resolved into the colony, province, and lastly the State of New York.

Many complications and controversies were the outcome of these conflicting grants. One of them very nearly involved the stalwart Green Mountain Boys in a civil war against the authorities of the province of New York, and would probably have so resulted but for the outbreak of the Revolution. The principal discussion concerning ownership and jurisdiction of the territory under the letters patent, and that which more particularly concerns the present reader, was that carried on between the authorities of the province of the then called Massachusetts

Bay and the representatives of the colony and province of New York, although at the time the controversy was adjusted both of these colonies had become States of the Union. To settle the dispute between them the States of Massachusetts and New York ceded all their domain to the federal authority, but before the latter had taken cognizance of the matter the States themselves had taken such action as obviated the necessity of congressional interference. After the settlement of certain preliminaries the contestants agreed upon the appointment of commissioners of arbitration, who held a meeting at Hartford, Conn., on the 16th of December, 1786. The results of their deliberations are best told by Turner, as follows:

“According to the stipulations entered into by the convention Massachusetts ceded to the State of New York all her claim to the government, sovereignty, and jurisdiction of all the territory lying west of the present east line of the State of New York; and New York ceded to Massachusetts the pre-emption right, or fee of the land, subject to the title of natives, of all that part of the State of New York lying west of a line beginning at a point in the north line of Pennsylvania, eighty-two miles north of the northeast corner of said State, and running thence due north through Seneca Lake to Lake Ontario; excepting and reserving to the State of New York a strip of land east and adjoining the eastern bank of Niagara River, one mile wide, and extending its whole length. The land, the pre-emption right of which was thus ceded, amounted to about 6,000,000 of acres.”

The plain interpretation of this agreement was that the land in question should remain and continue within the State of New York and subject to its laws and government, but that its ownership should be in the State of Massachusetts, subject to whatever rights the Indian occupants may have had and then had. This right Massachusetts was at liberty to purchase from the natives.

Thus vested with the legal title to the lands all that was required of Massachusetts was the purchase of the Indian claim, as New York had previously done in other localities. The greater part of the territory included within the county of Yates was also a part of the Massachusetts tract. And the portion of this county which was not within the pre-emption lands, as sometimes called, is that which lies bordering on



Seneca Lake in the towns of Torrey, Milo, and Starkey as at present constituted.

The proceedings of the arbitration commission were held and its agreement reached during the year 1786 and in the year following, 1787, Massachusetts began casting about for a sale of her territory; but at this juncture there appeared an element of disturbance that not only threatened trouble for the Bay State's interests, but, as afterward developed, that same troublesome factor threatened to disrupt the very institutions of the State of New York. The troubles and vexations of the time were all caused by the unlawful operations of the New York Genesee Company and its auxiliary association, the Niagara Genesee Company.

The constitution of the State of New York forbade the purchase of the fee of lands from the Indians by individuals, that right being reserved to the State alone. This measure was adopted to protect the nations against the acts of unscrupulous persons whose chief aim should be to defraud the easily misled Indians of their possessions; but the right so reserved to this State, so far as related to the district ceded to Massachusetts, was passed to the latter under the deed of cession.

During the winter of 1787-88 there was organized an association of individuals who styled themselves the New York Genesee Company, and the object of which was the acquirement of lands from the Indians; not, however, by purchase, for that was forbidden by law, but by obtaining leases of the lands for long period of years, and upon the payment of small cash consideration and an annual rental. The New York Genesee Company was comprised of wealthy persons, most of whom resided in the Hudson River region, and who became members of the association purely for purposes of speculation. This company also caused to be organized an auxiliary association, called the Niagara Genesee Company, the membership of which was comprised chiefly of residents of Canada, with a certain few from this State; but almost without exception those who composed the latter company were persons who had in some manner become acquainted with the Indians and who were able to influence them almost at will.

Through the machinations of the lesser organization, the Niagara Genesee Company, there was executed a lease with the Six Nations, in

which lease the party of the second part were the associates comprising the principal company, and by the terms of which the second party therein named became the lessees of an immense tract of land for a period of 999 years from the 30th of November, 1787. The consideration provided to be paid by way of rental was the annual sum of 2,000 Spanish milled dollars, added to which was the promise of a bonus of \$20,000.

The lease consummated the new proprietary at once set about the colonization of their district, which of course included within its limits the greater part of what is now Yates County ; but no sooner had the intelligence of this lease reached the ears of Governor Clinton than that official at once dispatched trustworthy agents to the land of the Seneca for the purpose of informing the natives of the fact that they had been duped ; that the lease would be declared null and void by the State legislature ; and that they, the Indians, should refrain from further negotiations with either lessee company or their agents.

It appears that the originators of the scheme for the acquirement of Indian lands by lease had another project in view than the mere acquisition of title. At that particular time as well as previously and afterward there was in progress a controversy between the authorities of the State of New York and the people of the independently organized district of New Hampshire Grants, but more commonly known as the State of Vermont. The people then had taken their grants from the governor of New Hampshire, Benning Wentworth, under the belief that the territory was a part of that province, but the decree of the King in July, 1764, had determined the eastern boundary of the province of New York to be the west bank of the Connecticut River. The people of the district would have readily submitted to the authority and jurisdiction of New York had not the governor of the latter insisted that the township charters be surrendered, and that new ones be taken from New York and full consideration be paid therefor. Against this the people rebelled, and most effectually and determinedly resisted all attempts of the New Yorkers to dispossess or arrest them. In 1777, after the Declaration of Independence declared at Philadelphia, the people of the then called New Hampshire Grants assembled in convention and declared their district to be an independent State ; and thereafter, and for

fourteen long years, they maintained that independence until finally admitted to the federal Union in 1791.

While the situation in Vermont had no parallel in the case of the lessee company, still the latter was inspired with the hope that in acquiring a long lease-hold interest in the lands of the Six Nations they, too, might organize a separate and independent State apart from the government of New York. Such was their discovered intention, but the prompt and energetic action of Governor Clinton thwarted their plans, afterward annulled their leases, and made them glad to sue for terms of peace and compromise. The result was that instead of possessing some millions of acres, and forming them into a new State, they were ultimately content with receiving a ten mile square grant off the old Military Tract in the northern part of this State. The lessees were afterward further rewarded by the Phelps and Gorham proprietary by the grants of several towns; but consideration of the latter grants was the influence the agents of the lessees commanded with the Indians in enabling Phelps and Gorham to perfect their title by purchase from the Six Nations.

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## CHAPTER VI.

The land Titles — The Phelps and Gorham Purchase — Its extent and Boundaries — Troubles created by the Lessee Companies — How Settled — Consolidation of Interests — Extinguishment of Indian Titles — The old Pre-emption Line — Fraud Practiced — Town Surveys — Sale to Robert Morris — The latter sells to English capitalists — Surveying the new Pre-emption Line — The fraud Discovered — New complications Arise — How Settled — Occupants of the "Gore" — How Compensated — Settlement with Charles Williamson, agent of the Pultney Association.

WITH the exception of certain specially reserved tracts of land the Hartford convention of commissioners awarded to the State of Massachusetts, in settlement of her conflicting claims with New York, the greater portion of the territory of the last named State which lay west of Seneca Lake. New York, however, retained and held the right of jurisdiction and sovereignty over this vast area, while the fee in the

territory vested in Massachusetts, subject only to the Indian title which the latter State or her grantees must purchase and extinguish.

These lands being quite remote from the State which owned them the authorities thereof deemed it expedient that they be sold and the proceeds used to replenish the depleted exchequer of the Commonwealth. There was no lack of eager purchasers, prominent among whom were Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham. The former of these persons determined to become interested in the purchase of 1,000,000 acres of the tract, while the latter also had the same end in view, each at first acting independently. Later an association of purchasers was formed and a proposition duly made to the State for the sale of the pre-emption tract, or at least of 1,000,000 acres of it, at the price offered by Mr. Gorham; that is at "one and sixpence currency per acre," payable in the "public paper of the Commonwealth." The Massachusetts House of Representatives agreed to the sale on these terms, but the Senate failed to concur, whereupon no action was taken until the month of April, 1788.

While the question relative to the sale of the land was pending, and prior to the April meeting of the legislature, other competitors came into the field for the purpose of making purchases on the pre-emption tract; but that there should not be any clash of interests or strife over the matter of purchase all the parties united with the Phelps and Gorham association. The result was that in April, 1788, the constituted representatives of the association, Phelps and Gorham, made a proposal to the legislature to take all the land ceded by New York to Massachusetts, at the agreed price of \$100,000, payable in Massachusetts paper currency, which, by the way, was at that time greatly depreciated in value. The preliminaries being settled and the proposition accepted the contract of sale was made complete.

The first duty devolving upon the new owners after having purchased the pre-emption right was to make perfect title by the extinguishment title. This task fell upon Mr. Phelps, while to Mr. Gorham was entrusted the duty of conferring with the New York authorities relative to running the boundary or pre-emption line. Gen. Israel Chapin was at the same time directed to explore the new region of country and report its character to the associate proprietors.



Oliver Phelps found himself charged with a more difficult and doubtful undertaking than he at first anticipated. He found the lessees under the long lease in constructive if not in actual possession; and he found, too, that all his endeavors at negotiations with the Indians must prove fruitless, as the lessee company exercised a controlling influence over the natives and over the traders, interpreters, and others upon whose assistance he had relied in carrying out his own plans for the acquirement of the title. At last, realizing that a compromise of some sort would be the most satisfactory way out of existing difficulties, Mr. Phelps visited the principal lessees at Hudson, and there such negotiations were had that the lessees agreed to call a council of the Indians at Kanandesaga, make a surrender of their lease, and take a deed of cession from the sachems and authorized agents of the tribes, the grantees in the deed to be Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham for themselves and their associates.

Although there appears to be no record showing the actual consideration that moved the lessee company to consent to this arrangement it at the same time appeared to be pretty well understood among the holders of the long lease that theirs was an exceedingly doubtful title and one which would not be acquiesced in by the parties who executed it. More than that Massachusetts and New York both refused to confirm the lease-hold, in the face of which opposition, together with the feelings of discontent prevailing among the Indians, the lessees were themselves easily persuaded to become members of the Phelps and Gorham association, or syndicate as it would now be called, and in that manner become owners under proper authority.

Having made a satisfactory arrangement with the principal men in the New York Genesee Company, and in particular with its leading and governing spirit, John Livingston, Mr. Phelps at once made preparations for a grand council with the Six Nations to be held at Kanandesaga, but on reaching that place about June 1, 1788, he found an existing difficulty or disagreement between the New York Genesee Company and the Niagara Genesee Company, and that the leading men of the latter were holding the Indians at Buffalo Creek and had persuaded them not to attend the council. Thereupon Mr. Phelps proceeded to Buffalo Creek and succeeded in removing the objections of some of the

principal men of the Niagara Genesee Company by promising them townships in return for their friendly influence with the natives.

This done a council was at once held with the Indians at Buffalo Creek with result, on the 8th of July, of the Six Nations releasing the lessee company from the provisions of their agreement so far as related to the pre-emption tract; and with the further result of a sale by the Six Nations to Phelps and Gorham, for themselves and their associates, of the entire tract ceded to Massachusetts, estimated to contain 2,500,000 acres of land. The consideration of the sale was the payment to be made to the Indians of \$5,000 and an annuity of \$500 forever. By the deed of transfer then executed by the chiefs and sachems of the Six Nations Phelps and Gorham, for themselves and their associates, became the owners in fee simple absolute of all the lands of Yates County that lay west of the pre-emption line. In fact that purchase covered the greater part of what is now Ontario, Wayne, Yates, Steuben, and Livingston Counties, and parts of Monroe and Allegany Counties. The strip of land lying east of the pre-emption line and west of Seneca Lake was claimed by the lessee companies, but the manner in which they afterward became divested of their title will be made clear later in the present chapter.

While Oliver Phelps was busily employed in arranging for his negotiations with the Indians, and bringing to satisfactory terms the disturbing elements in the lessee companies, Mr. Gorham, the associate of Mr. Phelps, was engaged in preparing for the survey of the east and west boundary lines of the Massachusetts lands as preliminary to the survey and division into townships of the body of the tract. For this work the services of Col. Hugh Maxwell, an engineer of good repute, were engaged and the survey of the line was made during 1788. But the work of surveying the east line was not performed by Colonel Maxwell nor under his immediate direction. He was taken ill about the time the survey began and was obliged to return to his home, while the running of the line devolved upon his assistants and subordinates. Among those engaged in this work were at least one or more who were directly the subservient tools of the New York Genesee Company, and who, at the command of their principals, were dishonest enough to survey the line, not as contemplated by the letter and the spirit of the agreement



between New York and Massachusetts, but so far as possible in the selfish interests of land sharks and speculators of the company above mentioned. At that time Geneva, or Kanandesaga, was a village of some importance, and was the chief seat of operations in the whole Genesee country and withal a very desirable acquisition. This point the ruling spirits of the lessee company desired to retain and control, but could not with a correct running of the line as contemplated in the pre-emption compact. The sudden illness of Colonel Maxwell opened to the lessees a convenient opportunity to defraud Phelps and Gorham by inducing the assistant engineers to deviate from the correct line, or what should be the correct line, and establish the boundary to the westward of Kanandesaga or Geneva, thus throwing the coveted district without the Massachusetts tract and bringing it within the territory claimed by the lessees under their contract of lease with the Six Nations. This was done. The engineer in charge made a deflection to the westward, and so established the original or first pre-emption line as to defraud Phelps and Gorham of thousands and thousands of acres and brought Geneva well over on the lessee tract. This palpable fraud was not discovered until some years afterward, and not until the territory had been surveyed into townships and sold to divers purchasers. And when discovered and the new pre-emption line run many complications were created with the unfortunate consequences ever attendant upon conflicting titles.

The surveys into townships of the Phelps and Gorham purchase were made from the eastern pre-emption line as run in 1788. That line passed through Yates County, forming the eastern boundary of Barrington and Milo, as originally surveyed; thence northward through Torrey, as now established, and Benton, passing across Kashong Creek about 200 rods east of Bellona. What is commonly called the "old pre-emption road"<sup>1</sup> is nowhere on the pre-emption line in the town of Benton, nor until one passes north from Cromwell's Hollow in Seneca township, Ontario County.

The survey of the territory into townships was commenced in 1788

<sup>1</sup> The road dividing Starkey and Barrington and running about a mile into Milo is on the old pre-emption line; also in Milo the straight road passing north and south through Milo Center, in Torrey for a short distance near Caleb Legg's, and in Benton for only a few rods on the McMaster property.

and completed in 1789. So far as the character of the surface would admit the towns were supposed to contain contents of six miles square. Running from south to north were first surveyed the range lines. Therefore the eastern boundary of Barrington being the pre-emption line the land between it and a parallel line six miles west from it constituted the "first range." Still another line six miles farther west and parallel to that last described included the townships of the second range. Traveling northward through each range monuments were placed at the end of every six miles, and by running lines at right angles to the range lines, at the designated points, there would be included six miles square, thirty-six square miles, or a township area. So it was in counting from south to north that the town of Barrington was numbered "six" in the first range; Milo, being next north, number "seven," first range; Benton, number "eight," first range. From this is also shown the fact that south of Barrington and between that town and the Pennsylvania line were five other townships in the first range. This is but an explanatory example of the system of surveys employed in sub-dividing the Phelps and Gorham purchase, as it has been commonly called. Jerusalem and Potter were in the second range and Italy and Middlesex in the third range. Township numbers ran from south to north and range numbers from east to west from the old pre-emption line.

In 1789 the enterprising land operators, Messrs. Phelps and Gorham, found themselves to be in a substantially embarrassed condition financially. To be sure they were the possessors of upwards of 2,000,000 acres of the best lands in the State of New York, and to a fair proportion of that vast area they had succeeded in extinguishing the Indian claim of title. However the expenses incurred in doing what had been done up to this time had been enormous. The surveyor's charges had been large, while the payment to the Indians and the distribution of influencing presents among them amounted to no small cost. Then, too, was the ever present contingent of hangers-on, persons who had helped or claimed to have assisted in bringing about a peaceful settlement of difficulties, and who were persistent in their demands for money and lands. During this time the proprietors had succeeded in disposing of about half, slightly less, of their vast estate, but the purchasers were in the

main persons who held shares or stock in the association, and who had accepted town grants or deeds in exchange for their interests in the company. Therefore the year 1789 found Phelps and Gorham with a large amount of land remaining, but with very little ready cash, and the payment agreed to be made to Massachusetts, the \$100,000, was now due. The worthy proprietors had reckoned upon paying the purchase price in Massachusetts money, which at the time they made the original contract was worth only about fifty cents on the dollar, but which on account of the State's having funded her debt and re-established her credit among other States of the Union had advanced to nearly par value. The result of this was that, instead of being able to make the payment with about \$50,000 actual means, the proprietors found themselves under the necessity of raising nearly \$100,000, an obligation they could not meet.

In this emergency Phelps and Gorham memorialized the Massachusetts legislature, asking that they be released from the payment of the whole principal sum, and expressed a willingness to pay for that portion of the lands to which the Indian title had been extinguished. This proposition was agreeable to the State, the more so perhaps from the knowledge they had that the remaining territory could find ready sale to Robert Morris, of Philadelphia, the financier of the Revolution and a man of large means and influence.

In the early part of 1790 a sale was effected to Mr. Morris, the deed or contract therefor being executed by Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham, and the lands embraced in the transfer included all that the grantors had purchased under the pre-emption right except such townships as had already been sold, of which there were about fifty. The consideration agreed to be paid by Mr. Morris was £30,000 New York money, or its ready equivalent of \$75,000.

Mr. Morris had no sooner become fully possessed of his new purchase than he proceeded to investigate its character and condition, and he soon discovered or had strong reason to suspect that a gross fraud had been practiced in running the east line. For the purpose of accurate information on the subject he engaged Adam Hoopes to explore the country, and particularly to re-survey the east boundary and determine upon the accuracy of the original line. But before anything had been

done in this matter Mr. Morris's agent in England succeeded in making a sale of the tract to a party of English capitalists, comprised of Sir William Pultney, John Hornby, and Patrick Colquhoun. The negotiations were had with Charles Williamson, who acted in the capacity of agent for the persons named and received the deeds in his own name, which the actual purchasers, being aliens, could not hold. The consideration paid Mr. Morris was £35,000 sterling or, its equivalent, \$170,000. Mr. Morris's ownership was quite brief, but his profit was none the less substantial. The lands included within this sale amounted to about 1,200,000 acres. The deed was executed April 11, 1792.

Among other things Mr. Morris had agreed with his grantees that he would cause to be made an accurate survey of the pre-emption line, and in accordance with this promise he directed the work to be done under the supervision of Major Hoopes. He also caused Andrew, Joseph, and Benjamin Ellicott to be engaged as assistants in the work. The work was performed in 1792, Benjamin Ellicott being in immediate charge and assisted by his brothers and others named Armstrong, Saxton, and Briscoe.

This party of competent and trustworthy surveyors commenced at precisely the same point as had the previous engineers, at the eighty-second milestone in the Pennsylvania line, but the new men at once discovered that the original line began bearing to the westward at the very outset, and so continued with occasional variations until Sodus Bay was reached. The greatest variation from the correct line was two miles, sixty-five chains, and sixty-four links, and this at a point eighty-one miles from the place of beginning. Throughout the towns that now form a part of Yates County the line was shown to be from one and one-half to two and one-half miles farther west than it should have been. This survey made by the Ellicotts and others also demonstrated very clearly that the running of the old line so far from its true course was the result of fraud and not an error.

This discovery worked to the great disadvantage of the State and to the owners and settlers, who had by that time taken possession of their lands. The State had sold and granted to divers individuals all the lands lying between the old pre-emption line and Seneca Lake, and many of the purchasers and grantees under these sales were in posses-



sion. Now the true pre-emption had been surveyed and fixed, and within the Phelps and Gorham purchase, as by that survey decided, were found the lands and improvements of persons holding titles from the State. Nothing now remained to be done on the part of the State other than to satisfy the claims of the injured parties. In many cases Mr. Williamson confirmed the State titles and received compensation therefor from the State by grants of lands in other localities from the public lands, while in other instances the governor appeased the claimants by grants of public lands, but generally was compelled to give from three to six acres for each one possessed by the person found to be on the pre-emption tract.

The principal settlement in this region at that time was the Friends colony in the towns of Milo and Torrey and the vicinity generally. They were found to be in part on the pre-emption tract and in part on State lands. The chapter next following shows how they became quieted in their possession through the generosity of Charles Williamson.

The new pre-emption line touched the waters of Seneca Lake at a point about two miles north of the village of Dresden, and continued in the lake the remainder of its length. The result of the survey showed Geneva to be wholly within the Massachusetts district and therefore a part of the Phelps and Gorham purchase. Neither Phelps, Gorham, or Robert Morris ever realized any additional remuneration on account of the discovery, but whatever of advantage or profit came of it fell to the Pultney association, of which Charles Williamson was active agent.

One of the largest tracts of land that was brought within the purchase after running the new line was the 16,000 acres originally granted to Seth Reed and Peter Ryckman in consideration of services performed by them in acquiring title to the State by influencing the Indians to attend the council. Moreover both these persons were members of the lessee company and the grant was in part made to quiet and satisfy them.

Charles Williamson claimed of the State on behalf of his principals compensation for the total amount of 37,788 acres of land, a portion of which land lay within the county of Yates as afterward established. One parcel was a 320-acre tract reserved by treaty to Joseph Poudre, and which was in the towns of Seneca, Ontario County, and Benton, this county; another was a tract of 2,600 acres surveyed to William J.



Fredenburgh in the towns of Torrey and Milo; another was the Lansing tract of 2,466½ acres also in Torrey and Milo; one of 400 acres surveyed to John Quick in Starkey; one survey of 1,500 acres in Milo certified to James Walker; the Phillips tract in Starkey of 800 acres; the tract of Samuel Latta containing 200 acres in Starkey; the Nathaniel Owen tract of 200 also in Starkey; 3,996 acres surveyed to James Watson in Starkey; 600 acres in Starkey surveyed to Lansing and De Witt; and 3,600 acres belonging to John Carpenter and others, 1,000 acres belonging to Charles McKnight and others, and a small gore of 463 acres, all in Starkey. Other particular instances might be cited, but they are not considered as having any importance in this chapter. The remaining portion of the land, that lying between the new pre-emption line and Seneca Lake, was practically undisturbed. It had been granted by the State of New York to individuals who held military land warrants or to others to stop clamorous tongues among the lessee companies.

The land lying between the old and new lines became known as "the gore," and by that name it has ever since been designated. When the towns were organized as parts of Ontario County the unsurveyed lands were annexed to the regular towns for jurisdictional purposes. Starkey, however, lying in a great and separate body, became a part of Reading in Schuyler County, and was organized as a part of Yates in 1824.

Much that might properly come within the province of this chapter, particularly that which relates to the sale and disposition of the several townships now forming Yates County, is omitted from the present narrative, but will be found in the chapters devoted to township history.

## CHAPTER VII.

Jemima Wilkinson, the Public Universal Friend — First emissary of the Friends Society sent to explore the Genesee Country — His unfavorable Report — A Committee of investigation Chosen — The life of The Friend — Her sickness, recovery, and singular Transformation — Her Teachings — Friends Society Formed — Her travels in New England and Pennsylvania — The Friends the pioneers in Yates County — Founding the new Jerusalem — Their Trials and Hardships — First wheat Sown — The first Mill — The coming of The Friend — Her home and Meeting-house — A dissension in the Society — Some prominent members Withdraw — The purchase of Jerusalem Township — The Friend's Purchase — Her removal to Jerusalem — Death of Sarah Richards — Troubles following her Decease — A serious Litigation — Ultimate success of The Friend's Cause — Death of The Friend — Her last Will and Testament — False prophets enter the Society — Its decline and Downfall — Members of the Society.

AS early as the year 1786 Ezekiel Sherman made a visit of exploration and investigation to the region of the then called Genesee country, the object of which was to find some suitable location for the establishing of a permanent settlement by a peculiar sect or class of persons, the devoted followers of Jemima Wilkinson. At that early day, however, settlement of any kind in this region was attended not only with great hardship, but the Indian occupants of the locality were not yet fully reconciled to the singular situation in which they found themselves on account of the disastrous results of the war just closed; nor were these savage descendants of the once powerful Iroquois at all disposed to readily submit to the invasion of their much loved hunting and fishing region by any white people, no matter how peaceable may have been the settlement or how worthy may have been the object of the colonists.

Finding the country not ripe for occupation Mr. Sherman returned to the place whence he came and reported to the society the results of his investigation. But far from being dismayed by the unfavorable representations of their emissary the society determined to send a committee of three persons to make a further investigation of the condition and situation of the new country and if possible to fix upon a favorable tract for their future occupancy and habitation.

Jemima Wilkinson, as she was originally named, or the Universal Friend, as she styled herself after her somewhat remarkable transformation from the material to the spiritual being, was the founder and the conscientious leader of the sect or society just referred to. She was not, neither were her followers, religionists of the order commonly termed enthusiasts or fanatics, nor were they in any sense the followers of a false doctrine. On the contrary the people who allied themselves to the Friend were earnest, honest, upright men and women, and among her followers were numbered many persons who are remembered as having been among the foremost men of the region that was afterward erected into the county of Yates, and whose descendants many of them still occupy the soil of the county and are among the progressive citizens of the present time; and although the society has been for many years extinct, and memory of it lives only in historical records, still no intelligent speaker has given voice to sentiments other than of praise for the society and admiration for its most zealous founder and head.

The name of Jemima Wilkinson is known in almost every household in the county, and the story of her life has been published many times and told by parent to child through all the generations of people from the coming of her society and self to this locality to the present. Nothing untold can now be said of her, yet any work of the historian that purports to treat of this region of the State would indeed be incomplete without at least a passing allusion to The Friend and her faithful people. Jemima Wilkinson was born in the town of Cumberland, Providence County, R. I., in 1758, and was the daughter of Jeremiah and Amy (Whipple) Wilkinson. Of their twelve children Jemima was the eighth and the only one of them that attained any special celebrity or prominence. The young life of this child was not unlike that of others of her condition and situation, nor is it understood that she possessed peculiar traits that marked her in contrast with others of her time. She lived at a time when it was not an uncommon thing for numbers of people to separate themselves from established churches or sects and set up a new standard of religious discipline or worship; and while it is known that Jemima was brought under the influence of one of these departures it is not believed that she was led by it. However during her young womanhood she underwent a remarkable and most

singular change. In the summer of 1776, then being eighteen years old, she fell sick and of her disease none of the medical men of the time were able to comprehend, except that it was diagnosed as one of the ailments of the nervous system and not of the physical, for she appeared to suffer no pain. At last she wasted in bodily strength and friends despaired of her life ; but during her illness Jemima constantly told them of her strange visions, beautiful in her eyes, which to those around her were evidences of an approaching end and the hallucinations of a bewildered brain. Gradually she became more weak in strength as her illness continued, when finally, in October, she appeared to fall into a trance state and appeared almost lifeless for a space of about thirty-six hours. To the great surprise of her family she suddenly aroused herself, called for her garments, dressed, and walked among the assembled members of the household, though frail and wasted with her long prostration. From this time forth she disclaimed being Jemima Wilkinson, but asserted that the former individuality had passed away and that she was another being, a minister of the Almighty sent to preach his gospel and to minister to the spiritual necessities of mankind. She took to herself the name of the Universal Friend, or the Public Universal Friend, and would recognize no other names even to the end of her life, although to her followers she was commonly known as "The Friend."

The first public appearance of Jemima in her new character was made on the Sunday next following her rising from the bed of sickness, and on the day alluded to she attended worship and after the services were ended repaired to a grove of trees, where she delivered a discourse of some length. In the course of her remarks she displayed a surprising familiarity with scripture passages and astonished her hearers with the peculiar force of her delivery. From this time forward she preached frequently, and her audiences were comprised of persons of full mental power ; not a band of religious discontents nor a party looking for a Moses to lead them out of a darkness, but rather men of worth, standing, influence, and wealth, who with their families were impressed with the truth of the teachings of Jemima Wilkinson, although she at that time was scarcely more than a girl, being but about eighteen years of age. The Friend traveled about from place to place, visiting and preaching in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, and in



many localities houses of worship were erected by her converted followers. During the summer of 1782 she went to Pennsylvania, to the neighborhood of Philadelphia, accompanied by a small party of her adherents, and there she received a friendly welcome from the Quaker element of the region. She preached and labored among them for some time, with the result that many new converts were gathered around her standard. Between this field and that of her former labors her ministrations were divided until the year 1790, when she made the pilgrimage to the new Jerusalem in what afterward became the town of Torrey in the county of Yates. To establish a community home in some new region of the land was the cherished desire of The Friend, and it was for this purpose that Ezekiel Sherman was authorized to visit the Genesee country in 1786, reference to which was made in a preceding portion of this chapter.

Notwithstanding the unfavorable character of the report of Ezekiel Sherman the new society determined upon a still further investigation, and if possible to plant their colony in this section of the country. To this end Thomas Hathaway, Richard Smith, and Abraham Dayton were constituted a committee to represent the society and in 1787 set out upon their journey. They first explored some portions of Pennsylvania, particularly in the Wyoming Valley, but at last struck upon the trail made by General Sullivan's army of some years before, and this led them to and along the shores of Seneca Lake. After visiting Kanadesaga, now Geneva, they came down the west side of the lake to Kashong, now in Benton, Yates County, and at the latter place fell in with two Frenchmen who were trading among the Indians, and who were respectively named De Bartzch and Poudre. By the traders the committee was informed that the region about them was unsurpassed for purposes of settlement and cultivation; and in this opinion the worthy commissioners appear to have agreed, for they decided to make a favorable report of the locality, but to leave the exact situation of the colony to the discretion of whoever of the society should first come to make a home.

The first settlement by members of the society was made during the latter part of the summer of 1788, and the pioneers to whom belonged the honor of that event were Abel Botsford, Peleg Briggs, John Briggs,



Isaac Nichols, George Sisson, Ezekiel Sherman, Stephen Card, and others to the number of twenty-five persons. The descendants of a number of these heads of families are still residents of the county, residing in various towns. This party of pioneers proceeded along up Seneca Lake until their attention was attracted by the noise of falling waters. This indicated to them a desirable site for a mill and to the spot their steps were directed. This was in August, 1788, and the exact point of location was on the outlet of Keuka Lake not far distant from the place where it discharges into Seneca Lake, at the location which has ever since been known as City Hill. Not only was the first permanent white settlement effected at that time, but the sturdy pioneers of the party at once cleared the land and sowed about twelve acres of wheat, the first event of its kind in the State west of Seneca Lake.

During the year 1789 the little colony on the lake received large accessions in numbers, and even their faithful and devoted leader herself attempted the overland journey to the new country in the same year, but an unfortunate accident that nearly proved fatal in its results changed her determination, and she returned again to her home near Philadelphia. However The Friend sent her trusted companion and earnest co-worker, Sarah Richards, to the settlement at new Jerusalem to investigate its condition and its people and report to the leader on her return. But it appears that Sarah was not pleased at all she saw among the colonists, upon which she upbraided them in an earnest lecture. After a brief sojourn Sarah returned to The Friend and did not visit the settlement again until 1791.

The year 1789 was marked with many trials and hardships for the pioneers of the new country. Mills they had not, neither provisions, and many were threatened with starvation. To grind their corn a stump was hollowed out, and with a stone or mallet the corn was pounded sufficiently to call coarse meal; but the supply of this commodity was exceedingly scarce and many families were compelled to subsist on nettles and milk and the meat of such animals as the forest afforded. But after the first year the fertile soil of the locality returned an abundant harvest, and from that time forward no family suffered for the necessities of life; for luxuries they sought not, for such was not the

character of the followers of the Universal Friend. The distinguished patron and founder of the society became a dweller among its members during the year 1790, she having left Worcester, Pa., in March and completing the journey in about two weeks. In the same year, and after The Friend's arrival, the society erected a log meeting-house and also a house of abode for its leader. The former stood on the road leading from Norris Landing to the mill, near what has been more lately called the James M. Clark residence; The Friend's house stood on what is yet called the Townsend farm, and although much worn by the storms of a century is still standing, itself a monument to its singular and almost incomprehensible founder. The dwelling of The Friend was built by Elijah Malin and the means for its erection were furnished mainly by Anna Wagener, both of which persons were devout believers in the teachings of The Friend.

So far as this narrative has progressed there has nowhere been made mention of any fact tending to show by what means the Society of Friends became possessed of the land upon which their first settlement was made. In a general way it was known to the society that the region was a part of the Massachusetts pre-emption territory subject to the right of jurisdiction reserved to the State of New York; and although a latent fact it was nevertheless true that certain of the followers and adherents of The Friend were members of the somewhat noted lessee company, and through that channel and the influence of these members in the company the settlement was permitted and effected without the formality of negotiations and purchase. It was assumed, too, that the entire settlement was on the pre-emption tract, although in fact when the line had become determined it was found to be on both sides of the same. This discovery together with the subsequent running of the new pre-emption line led to certain complications, but which were afterward satisfactorily adjusted. But the reader will inquire how was it that Ezekiel Sherman made such an unfavorable report regarding the hostile attitude of the Indians, and yet within a year or two afterward so large a settlement was permitted by them to be made without any interruption on their part? In this connection it may be said that at this time the Six Nations had concluded their sale to Phelps and Gorham, but they still lingered about their favorite camps hunting

and fishing, as if reluctant to yield up possession they had so long and so peaceably held. Moreover they were at almost open enmity with all white settlers and retired before the onward march of civilization with feelings of hatred for their late conquerers. Occasionally there would be an outbreak, but the savages made no demonstration against the Friends settlement, although it was the first in the region west of Seneca Lake. In truth it appears that the Senecas stood in wondrous awe of the strange people inhabiting the new Jerusalem. The Public Universal Friend not only held her own community of people in a common bond of religious strength and union, but as well did her influence extend over the savage and warlike Senecas, and by them she was looked upon as something more than and totally unlike the average woman. She preached to them on various occasions, and her words being interpreted fell as seed sown upon good ground, for they showed to her and her followers invariable respect and refrained from any unfriendly demonstrations against the infant settlement. Not only that, but occasions are not wanting on which the Indians furnished The Friend with bountiful supplies of game and other necessities and comforts of life. On the other hand The Friend and her people always treated the Indians in a most friendly manner, offering them no affront and denying them no unreasonable request. They therefore became friends. In 1791, when the Senecas were on their way to the treaty grounds at Newtown (Elmira), a body of them to the number of about 500 camped at Norris Landing. Among them were Cornplanter, Red Jacket, Good Peter, Rev. Mr. Kirkland, Horatio Jones, Jasper Parish, the latter being interpreters. On this occasion The Friend preached to the Indians and was received by them with much favor. On a still later occasion, in 1794, at Canandaigua, at the final treaty The Friend also addressed the Indians, using this text for the subject of her remarks: "Have we not all one Father? Hath not one God created us all?" For this and other similar appearances she was called by the Iroquois *Squaw Shin-ne-waw-na-gis-taw-ge*, meaning "A great woman Preacher."

In 1788 the so-called "old pre-emption line" was surveyed and run, but the Friends had not more than an indefinite idea of its exact location. They of course desired to possess the land in fee simple, for which purpose they addressed an application to George Clinton, governor

of New York, believing themselves to be on the State lands, requesting that they be allowed to make purchase. The governor directed them to attend the land sale at Albany, which was done with the result of a purchase of a tract embracing 14,040 acres, the certificate of title being given to James Parker, William Potter, and Thomas Hathaway and their associates as tenants in common, they representing and acting for the society. The certificate of sale was dated October 10, 1792, but the consideration has been variously expressed by standard writers. Turner in his history of the land titles in general, and the Phelps and Gorham purchase in particular, says the purchase price was "a little less than 2s. per acre," while Cleveland states that no consideration was expressed, "except the requirement that there shall within seven years be one family located on each 640 acres." The latter statement would appear to be the more reasonable, for had the State granted or sold the tract for actual and substantial consideration money restitution would necessarily have been required by the grantees when it was discovered that the pre-emption line rightly run brought a considerable portion of their lands on the pre-emption tract. This proved the case. The new line was run in 1791 and passed through the Friends settlement more than a mile eastward of the old line, showing that their location was in part on the Phelps and Gorham tract proper. But at this time Phelps and Gorham had passed their title to Robert Morris, and by the latter it was sold to the London Association, the agent of the latter being Charles Williamson. This unfortunate condition of affairs left those of the society no resource other than to seek a confirmation of their title from the agent of the association. The number of settlers on the gore, as it was called, in the Friends settlement was twenty-three and they addressed themselves to Mr. Williamson as follows:

"JERUSALEM, 13th of the 1st Month, 1794.

"*Friend Williamson*: We take this opportunity to let thee know our wishes, who are now on thy land at the Friends Settlement, in Jerusalem, in the county of Ontario, and in the State of New York. We, the subscribers, wish to take deeds from friend Williamson for the land our improvements is on, rather than any other person. Our desire is that thee would not dispose of the land to any other person but to us who are on the land.

"Benajah Botsford, Eleazer Ingraham, Solomon Ingraham, Richard Smith, Abel Botsford, Enoch Malin, William Davis, John Briggs, Elnathan Botsford, Daniel In-



graham, Richard Mathews, Elnathan Botsford, jr., Asahel Stone, Samuel Doolittle, John Davis, Benedict Robinson, Philo Ingraham, Samuel Parsons, Jonathan Davis, Elijah Malin, Thomas Hathaway, Mercy Aldrich, Elisha Ingraham."

Charles Williamson, the representative of the London Association, to whom the above petition was addressed, showed to the petitioners the greatest consideration, treated them not only with fairness but with great liberality, and confirmed to them in the name of his principals the title to their lands agreeable to their request.

From the time of the organization of the Society of Friends in 1776 down to the closing years of the eighteenth century there appears to have been no serious interference with its prosperity and progress. Its numbers were comprised of persons and families who had heard the early teachings of its remarkable leader and were brought to this locality from the States of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. Many of them were strangers to one another before coming to the new Jerusalem, but when arrived there became united by the fraternal bonds of love, and faith, and hope, and all were devotees of their leader, The Friend, originally Jemima Wilkinson. Their lands and estates were held in common, and while each family lived upon that set apart to it the whole belonged to the society, according to the custom that prevailed in the body. In the society James Parker was perhaps the most influential and wealthy member, whose tract embraced a thousand acres and on which in parcels dwelt and labored himself, his son, and his sons-in-law. But during the latter part of the century referred to above Mr. Parker became for some unknown reason dissatisfied with the workings of the society, or with the strict and rigorous demands of The Friend herself, and withdrew himself from its membership and any and all allegiance to it. The rupture was sudden, but none the less effectual, and there proved to be a permanent alienation of affection between him and The Friend. Almost at the same time William Potter, another leading member of the society, withdrew himself from his former connection in the body, and from that time dated the decline of power and influence, not only of The Friend, but as well the society of which she was founder and leader—its acknowledged head. Then followed a long litigation growing out of the question of title to parts of The Friend's tract, in which suit William Potter was plaintiff and George



Sisson defendant, with determination in favor of the plaintiff and against the defendant, and therefore adverse to The Friend's interest. The opinion of the court pointed out a means by which The Friend's cause might find relief in equity, but in resorting to proceedings fell into the hands of an unscrupulous lawyer, who cheated his clients of a large retaining fee. Directly the losses in defending and prosecuting the several suits fell upon individuals of the society, but indirectly they came upon the society at large and had much to do with The Friend's ultimate change of residence from the Seneca Lake region to the more remote and less desirable final abode in Jerusalem, a town so named in recognition of her presence within its border.

But even before changing her dwelling place from the original site The Friend had in mind the thought of departing from the community and making her home in some remote locality, away from the dissentients who were the cause of so great trouble. To this end Abraham Dayton, a faithful servator of The Friend, was sent to Canada to negotiate with Governor Simcoe for a grant of a tract of land upon which she and her still devoted adherents could abide in peace. Friend Dayton succeeded in securing a grant of the township of Beauford, Canada West, but when the society were making preparations to emigrate to the region the governor annulled the charter on the ground that the same was made under the mistaken impression that the members of the society were Quakers, for whom he had great respect, but on learning the precise nature or character of the society deemed it expedient to revoke the grant already made. However he renewed the same to Mr. Dayton, who moved his family and property to the township and lived there during the remainder of his life.

On September 2, 1790, Thomas Hathaway and Benedict Robinson became the owners of township number seven in the second range by purchase from Phelps and Gorham. In extent the purchase embraced thirty-six square miles and the consideration paid therefor was \$4,320. Both Hathaway and Robinson were members of the society, and it is believed the purchase was made with the advice and sanction of The Friend and upon its territory she designed at some time to establish her permanent home. At all events such was the intention of Benedict Robinson at least, as might readily be inferred from a letter addressed by

him to Sarah Richards, the nearest companion and faithful counselor of The Friend. In January, 1792, Robinson conveyed to Sarah Richards on behalf of The Friend and in trust for her four whole lots and halves of two others, containing 1,400 acres of land, Thomas Hathaway having previously sold his interest in these lots to Robinson. By conveyances subsequently executed The Friend became possessed of a large tract of land in this township, amounting in the aggregate to 4,480 acres. On this tract in 1791 The Friend, accompanied by Sarah Richards, made the selection of a site for her permanent home, visiting the land in person. The work of improving and clearing the land, cutting roads, and erecting such houses and buildings as were necessary was at once commenced and prosecuted under the immediate supervision of Sarah Richards, but it was not until the spring of 1794 that The Friend and the members of her household moved to the place. The locality of her domicile was called "Brook Kedron," a name applied by Thomas Hathaway. However the trusted Sarah Richards did not live to witness the completion of her task, she dying during the latter part of 1793. By her will she bequeathed her trust to Rachel Malin, and by the same means devised her property and estate to the same person. To her daughter, Eliza Richards, she gave only a small property in Connecticut and entrusted her future to the generous care of The Friend. Eliza, however, proved recreant to The Friend's teachings; she escaped one night from The Friend's house and was married to Enoch Malin.

This couple, Enoch and Eliza Malin, afterward became the cause of much trouble to The Friend and involved her and her estate in a long and bitter litigation. It will be remembered that The Friend in making purchases of land seldom entered in person into the negotiations, and never took title to herself in her own name, but rather the conveyances were executed to her prime minister, Sarah Richards, in trust for The Friend either expressed or implied. By the extensive purchases of land in Jerusalem Sarah became possessed of the fee, while the equitable title was in The Friend; but Enoch and Eliza were not so disposed to regard it, for Eliza, as the child and natural heir of Sarah, contended that a part at least of The Friend's estate, so called, was wholly the property of her mother, and acting on this assumption conveyed away portions of it to sundry persons. Finally, in 1811, Rachel Malin, the

successor to Sarah Richards, brought suit in equity against Enoch and Eliza Malin, and others claiming to hold title under them. The case was not finally determined until 1828, and resulted in a final decree sustaining the trust relation in Sarah Richards and by her passed to Rachel Malin, thus upholding both the legal and equitable titles in The Friend. But before this litigation was ended both the original parties, Enoch and Eliza Malin and The Friend herself, were dead and buried. The death of The Friend occurred on July 1, 1819.

The first house of The Friend in Jerusalem, that commenced under the direction of the ever faithful Sarah Richards, was first occupied by The Friend in 1794. It was built in three sections, two of them being wholly of logs and a single story in height, while the third was of logs covered with clapboards, a building of presentable appearance and two stories high. One of the log sections was used as a meeting-house by the society and was otherwise utilized as a school-room. The first teacher appears to have been Sarah Richards, followed by Ruth Prichard and John Briggs. This substantial structure was the abiding place of The Friend and her family until the year 1814. Before that year, however, Thomas Clark commenced the erection of a more desirable house designed for the use of the distinguished leader of the society. His work was begun in 1809, but not before 1814 was it sufficiently complete to receive its tenant. The building was two and one-half stories high, having large rooms with high ceilings, and was exceedingly well ventilated and lighted. For its time this was one of the most pretentious dwellings of the region and was the home of The Friend from 1814 to 1819, in the latter of which years she died. But notwithstanding the demise of The Friend the home was occupied by her successors as long as the society continued in existence and after its extinction was put to such use as was required by its subsequent owners; and it still stands, showing somewhat the marks of time and the wearing of the elements. For the locality, even to the present generation of people, there has been ever shown a feeling of respect, for the final house of The Friend is the only substantial monument ever erected to her memory. Indeed for a time it covered her remains, her body having been deposited in a strong vault built in the cellar and securely walled in. After some years it was removed to a more suitable place of burial and

laid beside the graves of those who had been followers of The Friend. But the necessities of later generations of occupants of the soil required these lands for agricultural uses, and the body was disinterred and removed for permanent burial to the cemetery at Penn Yan.

Because of the persecutions of The Friend by those who had been her former followers and adherents she felt it incumbent upon herself to remove from her first established home at the new Jerusalem to the remote locality in which her remaining life was spent. At the time or soon after the first of her society came to the Seneca country the region was given the name of new Jerusalem, and that name applied to the region inhabited by members of the society and was not a township so named, as has been erroneously supposed. But when The Friend had moved to her last abode the name Jerusalem had already been given the township. In 1789 Thomas Hathaway and Benedict Robinson made the purchase of the township, and in the same year it was duly organized and named. Very appropriately it was called Jerusalem, for it was then intended to become the permanent home of The Friend. To her and those of the society who held firmly to its tenets it was indeed a Jerusalem, for in absolute control of all its lands they were safe from intrusion by those who sought to destroy the power and influence of both society and leader. For a time only can it be said that The Friend and her following were so exempted from worldly troubles, for with the death of Sarah Richards, and the sale of portions of The Friend's estate by Enoch and Eliza Malin, there were ever afterward many vexations and complications that disturbed the quiet community even until after The Friend had died and until the society itself was dissolved.

With the removal of The Friend to her new home in Jerusalem there went at the same time or soon afterward a fair proportion of her followers. Some of these bought lands for themselves, but many were given locations on The Friend's tract, which was quite extensive, and which was so intended to be for the accommodation of those who sought to be near her and were not able to purchase. Still The Friend retained a considerable tract of land in the original location on the lake, some 300 acres; and although residing some twelve miles distant from the scene of former labors she occasionally visited the old settlement and preached to those who still lived in the locality. In traveling to and



from her home and the old place The Friend would sometimes ride a horse, but as years advanced she betook herself to a three-seated vehicle, of almost ancient construction, as the most convenient and easy means of making the journey. In this old carriage, it is said on reliable authority, The Friend traveled from her home near Philadelphia to the new Jerusalem in 1791. During the earlier years of her residence here the carriage could not well be used, as the roads were then in a primitive state and almost impassable to such a cumbrous vehicle as was this. For this reason it was put aside for some years and The Friend made her journeys on horseback. She became, too, an expert rider and once eluded her persecutors, who sought to arrest her, by her skillful and rapid riding. But during the later years of her labors, being somewhat broken by overwork and suffering from a dropsical affliction, The Friend had recourse to her carriage to convey her about among the branches of the society. And the old carriage itself, having withstood the ravages of time is still in existence, and is kept as nearly as possible in its original appearance. It is now the property of William T. Remer, of Benton. To describe it understandingly to the reader would be a difficult task, but it is as it was when built except that the wheels have been reduced in size. On its back and sides are still seen The Friend's initials "U. F." in plain script, and also her coat of arms. The vehicle is entered by means of one door, and that on what farmers call the "nigh" side. The carriage is now more than 100 years old and is apparently as strong as when built. Frequently is the old carryall seen on the streets of Penn Yan and the town of Benton, but on none but public days and for occasional use at funerals.

Many of the persons who had once been the warmest friends and devoted followers of the Universal Friend, after they had seceded from and severed their connection with the society, became her most unrelenting and bitter persecutors; and while it is not deemed within the proper scope of this narrative to refer at length to the many false and defamatory charges brought against her and studiously circulated by the seceders it does become necessary to state the fact that she was once arrested upon the charge of blasphemy. Several times did the officers of the law attempt to arrest her, not that they feared she might escape the jurisdiction of the courts, but to make the fact public that she was under



arrest ; that she should be at least to that extent disgraced ; that if possible she should be confined in jail at Canandaigua ; and that the triumph of their revengeful spirit might be complete. But The Friend was not to be taken unawares, neither did she fear the results of arrest and trial ; but her people were determined she should not be unnecessarily detained nor in any manner disgraced, therefore they protected her against the persecutions of a relentless enemy. And when the time came right she quietly submitted to the service of legal process of arrest, and was provided with bondsmen and attorney and gave bail for her appearance without the necessity of leaving her own house. As required by the recognizance she duly appeared at the court at Canandaigua, but the grand jury refused to indict her. At that time she was invited by the court and others to preach to them, which she did. After the sermon was ended Judge Spencer, being asked his opinion of the discourse, said : " We have heard good counsel, and if we live in harmony with what that woman has told us we shall be sure to be good people here and reach a final rest in Heaven."

" The Last Will and Testament of the person called the Universal Friend, of Jerusalem, in the county of Ontario, and State of New York, who in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six was called Jemima Wilkinson, and ever since that time the Universal Friend, a new name which the mouth of the Lord hath named. Considering the uncertainty of this mortal life, and being of sound mind and memory, blessed to the Lord of Sabaoth and father of mercies therefor, I do make and publish this my Last Will and Testament.

" 1st. My will is that all my just debts be paid by my executors hereafter named.

" 2d. I give, bequeath, and devise unto Rachel Malin and Margaret Malin, now of said Jerusalem, all my earthly property, both real and personal, that is to say all my land lying in said Jerusalem and in Benton or elsewhere in the county of Ontario, together with all the buildings thereon, to them the said Rachel and Margaret, and to their heirs and assigns forever, to be equally and amicably shared between them, the said Rachel and Margaret ; and I do also give and bequeath to the said Rachel Malin and Margaret Malin all my wearing apparel, all my household furniture, all my horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, of every kind and description, and also my carriages, wagons, and carts of every kind, together with all my farming tools and utensils, and all my movable property of every nature and description whatever.

" 3d. My will is that all the present members of my family, and each of them, be employed if they please, and, if employed, supported during natural life by the said Rachel and Margaret, and whenever any of them become unable to help themselves they are, according to such inability, kindly to be taken care of by the said Rachel and Margaret ; and my will also is that all poor persons belonging to the Society of Uni-

versal Friends shall receive from the said Rachel and Margaret such assistance, comfort, and support during natural life as they may need ; and in case any, either of my family or elsewhere in the Society, shall turn away, such shall forfeit the provisions herein made for them.

"4th. I hereby ordain and appoint Rachel Malin and Margaret Malin executors of my Last Will and Testament. In witness whereof I, the person once called Jemima Wilkinson, but in and ever since the year 1777 known and called the Public Universal Friend, hereunto set my name and seal the 25th day of the 2d mo. 1818.

"John Collins,

"Ann Collins,

"Sarah Gregory.

THE PUBLIC UNIVERSAL FRIEND. [L.S.]

"Be it remembered that in order to remove all doubts of the execution of the foregoing Last Will and Testament, being the person who in the year 1777 was known and called by the name of Jemima Wilkinson, but since that time as the Universal Friend, do make, publish, and declare the within instrument as my Last Will and Testament, as witness my hand and seal the 7th day of the 7th mo. 1818.

"Thomas R. Gold,

"John Briggs,

"James Brown, jun'r.

her

JEMIMA X WILKINSON.

cross mark."

With the decease of The Friend, in conformity with the provisions of her will, the property and estate which had belonged to her were passed to the beneficiaries named in the will, Rachel and Margaret Malin. For some time all things went along smoothly and well, but the society was practically without a leader. And about this time, or some years after The Friend's death, there came to the community one Michael H. Barton, who evidently felt that he had a mission in life to accomplish. He found favor in the eyes of some of the society, but with others he was not so looked upon. He assumed the functions formerly exercised by The Friend, preached at the meetings for several years, and otherwise took upon himself the care of the society. And the worthy Barton, too, seems to have been something of a politician, a practice hitherto not dreamed of in the society as a character becoming its leader ; he took the stump for Harrison in 1840, hoping to be rewarded for his services by an appointment to office, but the death of the successful candidate put an end to his aspirations in that direction. Michael H. Barton died in 1857 and the society received no substantial benefit or enlargement during his ministrations.

Succeeding Mr. Barton came two other prophets, self called as was their predecessor, and who, in endeavoring to infuse a new spirit

into the society, only succeeded in working its ruin. While Barton was the politician Hymes was the historian; but the latter was less successful in his rôle than the former had been in his, and he was dismissed by the society. George Clark set almost at naught the rigorous religious discipline of the society and labored only for his own selfish ends and personal emolument. He survived the society he had sought to serve, in his own way, and afterward died in New York. But the greatest blow against the life of the now declining society came in the death of the faithful and zealous sisters, Margaret and Rachel Malin, the devisees under the will of The Friend and her immediate successors in the household. Margaret died in 1844, and by her will devised her interest in the estate to James Brown, jr., with the expressed desire that he replace her in the society and at the head of the late Friend's household. By Margaret Malin's will James Brown became possessed of about 700 acres of The Friend's estate, together with several thousand dollars worth of personal property. Rachel Malin died in 1848, leaving her property to the descendants of her brothers and sisters. This last death and the disposition of property following divided effectually the estate of the Universal Friend, and from that time it may be said that the society became practically extinct. The division of the property was not as The Friend herself originally designed when she made Rachel and Margaret her heirs and successors, but with each successive year the strength of the society became less, and outside and worldly influence were constantly working its disintegration with their final and unavoidable results of effectual dissolution.

The preceding portion of the present chapter has related only the general outline history of The Friend and her society without regard to the individual members who comprised the society, and without reference to the date of arrival in the region that was primarily called the new Jerusalem. Unfortunately there appears to be no record by which can be learned the date of settlement in this locality of the various families that were allied to The Friend, but following the coming of the first representatives of the society in 1788 settlement by others became quite frequent, and during the first five or so years of the history of this county subsequent to 1788 there were probably no settlers in the region who were not in some manner identified with the society or in-

fluenced in their immigration to the locality by the community established by The Friend. There has been preserved, however, a fairly accurate list of those who were adult members of the Society of Universal Friends; and it is proper in connection with this chapter, and as a part of the pioneer history of Yates County, that mention should be made of each to the extent of recording individual names. A preceding historical and biographical work has at considerable length recorded the lives of the families and individuals comprising the society, wherefore it becomes this chapter of the present work to furnish not more than the roll of membership. It is as follows :

William Aldrich, Joseph Ballou, John Bartleson, Samuel Barnes, Samuel Barnes, jr., Elizur Barnes, Henry Barnes, Jonathan Botsford, sr., Jonathan Botsford, jr., Jonathan Botsford, brother of Elijah, Abel Botsford, Elijah Botsford, Benajah Botsford, son of Elnathan, John Briggs, sr., John Briggs, jr., Peleg Briggs, sr., Benjamin Brown, sr., Benjamin Brown, jr., George Brown, James Brown, Abraham Dayton, Castle Dains, Jonathan Dains, John Davis, Samuel Doolittle, John Gardner, Amos Gurnsey, sr., Amos Gurnsey, jr., Jonathan Gurnsey, Spencer Hall, Arnold Hazard, David Harris, Nathaniel Hathaway, sr., Nathaniel Hathaway, jr., Thomas Hathaway, James Hathaway, Jedediah Holmes, sr., Jedediah Holmes, jr., Adam Hunt, Silas Hunt, Abel Hunt, Eleazer Ingraham, Elisha Ingraham, John Ingraham, Nathaniel Ingraham, Remington Kenyon, Ephraim Kinney, sr., Beloved Luther, Elisha Luther, Sheffield Luther, Stephen Luther, Elijah Malin, Meredith Mallory, sr., Isaac Nichols, George Nichols, Joseph Niles, Israel Perry, Samuel Potter, Abraham Richards, Asa Richards, Richard Smith, Silas Spink, Asahel Stone, sr., George Sisson, Gilbert Sisson, Joseph Turpin, John Tripp, David Wagener, Jacob Wagener, Jaud Weaver, John Willard, Eleazer Whipple, Benoni Wilkinson, Simon Wilkinson.

In the Society of Friends also were a number of persons, females, who adhered strictly to the life of celibacy advocated by The Friend, and these, too, are worthy of at least some mention. They were as follows: Sarah Richards, The Friend's intimate associate and counselor, who with her husband became members of the society during their married life; Mehitabel Smith, the sister of Richard Smith; Anna Wagener, sister of David Wagener; Lucy, sister of Daniel Brown; Rachel and



Margaret Malin, The Friend's devisees and successors; Mercy Aldrich, wife of William Aldrich and elder sister of The Friend; Patience Wilkinson, also The Friend's sister and wife of Thomas Hazard Potter; Alice Hazard, daughter of William Potter and wife of George Hazard; Lucina Goodspeed; Susannah Spencer, sister of Peleg Briggs, sr.; Martha Reynolds; Patience Allen; Hannah Baldwin; Sarah and Mary Briggs, sisters of Peleg Briggs, jr.; Lydia and Phebe Coggs well; Mary Gardner, widow, sister to Martha Reynolds; Mary Hunt, daughter of Adam Hunt; Lydia Davis, daughter of John Davis; Eunice Hathaway, daughter of Freeloove Hathaway; Susannah Hathaway, widow; Mary, widow of James Hathaway; Lavina Dains, daughter of Jonathan Dains, sr.; Elizabeth Carr, called in the society "Mother Carr"; Anna Styer; Sarah Clark, widow; Mary Holmes, sister of Jedediah Holmes; Catharine White, better known as Aunt Katie White, widow; Mary Bean; Eunice Beard; Lydia Wood, widow; Mary Ingraham, daughter of Nathaniel; Rachel Ingraham, daughter of Eleazer Ingraham; Chloe Towerhill, born in slavery, became the property of Benjamin Brown, and given freedom by The Friend's influence; Elizabeth and Hannah Kenyon, mother and daughter—the daughter married George Nichols; Elizabeth Kinney, widow, mother of Ephraim, Isaac, Samuel, and Mary Kinney; Rebecca Hartwell, mother of Samuel Hartwell; Elizabeth Luther; Elizabeth Ovet, sister of Abel, Jonathan, and Elnathan Botsford; Susannah Potter, daughter of Judge William Potter; Rebecca Scott, widowed mother of Orpha and Margaret Scott; Aphi and Margaret Comstock, sisters of Israel Comstock.

To those who have been mentioned in the above list Mr. Cleveland has given the appropriate name of "The Faithful Sisterhood," but to the roll so given adds as follows: "There was a noble array of devoted women not of this select band, who as wives and mothers, and true exponents of the highest morality and social virtue, illustrated the pioneer life with examples worthy to be held in honored remembrance, and gave The Friend's society a name for virtue, industry, and matronly worth of which no pen can speak in adequate praise." They are as follows:

Sarah Alsworth; Huldah Andrews; Susannah Avery, wife of Daniel Brown; Abigail Barnes, mother of Henry Barnes; Experience Barnes,



wife of Eleazer Barnes; Mary Bartleson, mother of Isaac and Bartleson Shearman; Elizabeth Botsford, wife of Jonathan Botsford; Elizabeth Botsford, daughter of Jonathan Botsford, jr., and wife of Abel Hunt; Lucy, wife of Elnathan Botsford; Lucy, daughter of Elnathan Botsford; Mary, wife of Abel Botsford; Mary, daughter of Abel Botsford; Elizabeth, wife of Peleg Briggs, sr.; Esther Briggs; Anna Briggs; Margaret Briggs; Lavina Briggs; Ruth Briggs, wife of Peleg Gifford; Anna Brown; Anna Brown, 2d; Abigail Brown; Catharine Brown, wife of David Fish and daughter of Benjamin Brown, sr.; Charlotte Brown; Desiah Brown; Rachel Brown, daughter of Thomas Clark and wife of Henry Brown, of Benton; Sarah, daughter of Benjamin Brown, sr., and wife of Judge Arnold Potter; Susannah Brown; Zernah Brown, mother of James Brown, jr.; Hannah Buckingham; Mabel Bush; Susannah Clanford, sister of David Wagener and wife, first, of Peter Supplee and afterward of — Clanford; Sarah Comstock, mother of Aphi and Martha; Bathsheba Cohoon; Abigail Congol; Eunice Crary; Phebe Carr; Mary Dains, wife of Jonathan Dains; Johanna Dains, wife of Castle Dains; Abigail, wife of Abraham Dayton; Dinah Dayton; Anice Dayton; Anna Davis, wife of William Davis; Leah, wife of John Davis; Rachel, wife of Jonathan Davis; Sinah Davis, wife of Stewart Cohoon; Anna Fannin, Hannah Fisher, wife of Silas Hunt; Frances Gardner; Mary Green; Kesiah Gurnsey; Mary Gurnsey, wife of Amos Gurnsey; Mary Gurnsey, Fear Hathaway, daughter of Susannah Hathaway and wife of — Bruce; Deborah Hathaway; Freeloove Hathaway; Mary Hathaway; Mary Hall; Mary Hall, 2d; Mary Malin Hopkins, wife of Jacob Rensselaer; Abigail Holmes; Elizabeth Holmes, wife of Elisha Luther; Margaret and Lucy Holmes; Mary Hunt, wife of Adam Hunt; Sarah, daughter of Adam Hunt; Anna Ingraham, wife of John Ingraham; Abigail Ingraham, daughter of Eleazer Ingraham; Experience Ingraham, wife of Nathaniel Ingraham; Lydia, wife of Eleazer Ingraham; Lydia, daughter of Eleazer Ingraham; Elizabeth Jaques; Ruth Jailor; Hannah Kenyon, wife of George Nichols; Candice and Eunice Kinney; Martha Luther, sister of Beloved and Reuben Luther and wife of George Brown; Mary Luther, wife of Reuben Hudson; Lydia Luther; Sarah Luther, wife of Beloved Luther; Elizabeth Miller; Sarah Negers; Anna Nichols, wife of Isaac Nichols; Margaret

Palmer; Mary Perry; Sarah, Hannah, Susan, and Armenia Potter; Penelope, daughter of William Potter and wife of Benjamin Brown; Ruth Pritchard, wife of Justus P. Spencer; Orpha and Elizabeth Rose; Bethany, wife of George Sisson; Lydia, daughter of George Sisson; Mary Sisson; Tamar Stone, sister of John Davis; Elizabeth Stone; Elizabeth and Rhoda Shearman; Rachel, daughter of Peter Supplee and wife of Morris F. Sheppard; Lydia and Mary Turpin; Lydia and Mary Wall; Rhoda Wescott; Almy Wilkinson; Deborah Wilkinson, youngest sister of The Friend, wife first of Benajah Botsford and afterward of Elijah Malin.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

Early efforts at Colonization and Settlement — Extent of Ontario County — Steuben County set Off — Towns of Ontario and Steuben which were erected into Yates County — How first organized and their Extent — The District of Jerusalem — Benton and Milo set Off — Italy formerly part of Middletown — Middlesex originally part of Augusta — Barrington and Starkey come from Steuben County — Torrey taken from Benton and Milo — A Brief allusion to the War of 1812-15 — Public sentiment in this Locality.

PRIOR to the year 1789 the region commonly called the Genesee country formed a part of Montgomery County. Therefore when Phelps and Gorham made their extensive purchase from Massachusetts and from the Six Nations they bought land in Montgomery County. But at that time there was no organization whatever in this part of the county; there had not been made any surveys and the Indian title had not been extinguished. However there was a settlement within the country and in this locality—that of the Friends in the new Jerusalem and within what was afterward erected into Yates County. The purchase by Phelps and Gorham, the survey of their lands into townships, and the ready sale of these townships to speculators and others, some of whom were desirous of making actual settlement on the town lands, was the first great step toward the creation of a county out of the lands and territory of Western New York. When the worthy proprietors first made

their purchase and came to view their lands they had no thought that Kanandesaga was not a part of their territory, wherefore, being a trading village of some importance and the most direct and convenient entrance to their tract, they established themselves at that point as a seat of operations.

The proprietors were correct in their conclusions that Kanandesaga was on their purchase, although through the selfish schemes of the lessees the pre-emption line was so run as to fall west of the trading post and to bring that place within the territory claimed by the lessees. After the line had been established Mr. Phelps, the active proprietor of the association, although not perfectly satisfied with the survey, nevertheless acquiesced and submitted, and changed his base of operations from Kanandesaga to Canandaigua. The result was that when Ontario County was erected, January 27, 1789, and the county seat established Canandaigua received the fortunate designation and the public buildings were erected there.

Ontario County, when erected in 1789, comprehended the entire region of the Phelps and Gorham purchase, and even all of the country known as Western New York. Therefore all the towns surveyed in this locality, and which were afterward formed into Yates County, were formerly a part of Ontario, although directly at least two towns now of Yates were taken from Steuben County. The last named county was formed from the mother county, Ontario, in 1796.

The towns which now comprise Yates County, and which lie west of the old or first pre-emption line, were surveyed and numbered during the years 1788 and 1789, but they were not generally named until they possessed a sufficient population to justify their organization. The Friends settlement extended over parts of the towns of Milo, Torrey, and perhaps a small portion of Starkey, and was called the new Jerusalem. This fact has led at least one writer of local history into an error, in that he states that the Friends settlement was organized into a town called Jerusalem, which embraced all the present county of Yates except Starkey and Barrington. The only town that was ever called Jerusalem, under proper or recognized authority, was that which still bears the name, and which was originally "township number seven, second range." But let us take a brief glance at the towns of old Ontario which afterward

became Yates County, and notice how, and when, and by what names they were organized.

In 1789, the same year in which Ontario County was erected, the inhabited portions of the county were formed into districts for jurisdictional purposes, that they might be properly governed, and that the freemen resident therein might avail themselves of their rights and privileges as electors. At that time the population of the towns that now comprise Yates County was exceedingly small, and it became necessary to group a number of them together, having them partake of the nature of a township, but not actually becoming such. They were made into a joint organized district and allowed to elect local officers, but there was wanting the distinct township character. The district of Jerusalem was in this way created and comprised all that is now included in the towns of Jerusalem, Milo, Benton, and Torrey.

The district of Jerusalem remained undisturbed as to its territory until 1803, when, having acquired a considerable population, it became necessary to sub-divide the same and create a new jurisdiction. The result was that in February, 1803, all the land now in Benton, Milo, and Torrey was separated from Jerusalem and erected into a district by the name of "Vernon." But it appears that a year previous to this event a town named Vernon had been established in Oneida County, which necessitated a change in the name of the more recent creation. Therefore Vernon was changed to Snell, and so named in honor of Jacob Snell, who was then State senator from Montgomery County. This name stood until 1810, when on account of some dissatisfaction the name Snell was dropped and Benton adopted in its stead. The latter name was applied in compliment to the first settler in the town proper—Levi Benton. He commenced an improvement near the north end of what is now called Flat street and about a mile west of Benton Center. The town of Benton, as at present constituted, covers township number eight, range first, with the addition of the land lying between the old pre-emption line and Seneca Lake, excepting the territory set off into the town of Torrey, which, however, it originally included.

The town of Milo was separated from Benton March 6, 1818. Within its boundaries was included surveyed township number seven, range first, together with all the land lying east of the town and west of Seneca



Lake. Its separation from the mother town of Benton is said to have been due to the efforts of Samuel Lawrence, one of the representatives of Ontario County in the State Assembly. Mr. Lawrence proposed the name of Milan for the new town, but as that had been already adopted for another district this was called Milo. Benton, Milo, and Barrington, of what is now Yates, and other towns as well were deeded by Phelps and Gorham to Caleb Benton in behalf of the lessee company; and by Caleb Benton the same were conveyed to John Livingston, also one of the famous lessees. The first deed was dated January 16, 1789; the second April 27, 1789.

The present town of Jerusalem occupies survey number seven, second range, together with a considerable tract of headland commonly called Bluff Point. This was annexed to Yates County and to Jerusalem on February 25, 1814. Jerusalem proper was deeded by the proprietary to Benedict Robinson and Thomas Hathaway, who were shareholders in the association. The purchase price of the township, \$4,320, or eighteen pence per acre, was very small for so valuable a town, but the fact that the grantees were among the associated owners of the Phelps and Gorham purchase sufficiently explains the matter. Moreover they were both devoted followers of *The Friend*, and secured the township for the purpose of establishing for their patron a permanent home.

The town of Italy formed originally a part of Middletown, the latter having been organized and so named in 1789, but afterward changed to Naples. Italy as now situated covers township number seven, range third. This was one of the towns not sold in parcel by Phelps and Gorham, but was by them sold with the entire tract to Robert Morris, and by the latter to the Pultney Association. Afterward the town was subdivided. The town of Italy was set off and organized on the 15th of February, 1815.

Middlesex, lying next north of Italy, occupies the township surveyed as number eight, third range. It was included within the district formed in 1789 and called Augusta, but changed in 1808 to Middlesex. The survey of township eight, third range, included lands on the west side of Canandaigua Lake, but the part west of the lake never became a part of Yates County. This portion was originally conveyed by Thomas Maxwell to Arnold Potter, but there arose a question as to



the sufficiency of the title conveyed by Maxwell. Subsequently Oliver Phelps quit-claimed to Potter and thus confirmed Maxwell's title. In 1856 six lots in the southeast part of Middlesex were annexed to Potter township.

The present town of Potter, number eight, second range, was originally a part of the Middlesex district, and was set off and organized April 26, 1832. It received its name from Arnold Potter, an original proprietor and the first settler in the town. Arnold Potter was the son of William Potter, one of the foremost men of the region in his time. He was originally a follower of The Friend and one of her faithful servants. He, too, was one of the influential dissentients from The Friend's teachings, and whose separation from the society was a serious blow against its after prosperity. At one time William Potter, his son Arnold, and another son owned the entire town of Potter.

The town of Starkey lies between the old pre-emption line and Seneca Lake, but when the new line was surveyed about two-fifths of the territory was brought into the Phelps and Gorham purchase. The greater part if not all of the lands of Starkey were surveyed and granted by the State on military land warrants. The land, too, was claimed by the lessee company as belonging to them under their famous lease. Charles Williamson, agent of the Pultney Association, quieted in their possession many of the owners found on the pre-emption lands, for which he received compensation from the State, while others were themselves given other grants in other localities by the governor of New York. The original name of this town, Starkey, was Frederickstown, so created March 18, 1796, as a part of Steuben County, but changed in 1808 to Wayne in honor of "Mad Anthony" Wayne. Still later the name was changed to Reading. While under this name, on April 6, 1824, that part of the town now called Starkey was annexed to Yates County.

Barrington, so named by its pioneers who came from the vicinity of Great Barrington, Mass., was surveyed as township number six, first range. When Steuben County was organized Barrington with several other townships, the lands of Starkey being among them, were organized into a district called Frederickstown and so named in honor of Frederick Bartles, who built a mill at Mud Lake in 1793. The name

was afterward changed to Wayne, and when Barrington was itself organized in 1822 the present designation was given. Barrington was one of the towns that came from Phelps and Gorham to the lessees by deed in satisfaction of their interest in the association, or as a reward for their influence and assistance in negotiating a treaty with the Indians. The town was surveyed into lots and "drawn for" by interested parties. A portion of the town went in some manner to Charles Williamson of the Pultney Association, while another and smaller part fell to the Hornby estate.

Torrey is the junior of the towns that comprise Yates County. Its lands were situate on both the east and west sides of the old and new pre-emption lines; also it comprises parts of townships number seven and eight, range first, and part of the State lands. Directly the town was taken from Benton and Milo, November 14, 1851. Within what is now Torrey was the first home of The Friend in the new Jerusalem; and here, too, were built the first mills and meeting-house and sowed the first wheat in all the Genesee country. Moreover the settlement made here by the Society of Universal Friends was the first pioneer movement in New York State west of Seneca Lake.

From the foregoing narrative the reader will discover the fact that nearly all the towns which comprise Yates County had an organized existence of some kind for many years before the county itself was erected. Therefore it is proper that some mention should be made of them as parts of older counties before writing of them as sub-divisions of Yates County. The county was brought into existence by an act of the legislature of the State of New York passed the 5th of February, 1823. Why and how this organization was brought about will be appropriate subjects for consideration in the succeeding chapter.

Although in no manner a part of the present chapter, and in no wise connected therewith, it nevertheless becomes necessary in this place to make some allusion to a series of events having their occurrence during and about the period intended to be covered by the present chapter. For a year preceding the War of 1812-15, during that period and even afterward for some time, the towns that were erected into Yates County were making the most rapid growth and progress in the clearing of farms and erecting buildings. The settlement by incoming fam-

ilies was something remarkable, and peace and prosperity everywhere prevailed. The settlement by the Friends had attained its greatest numerical strength; the stronghold in Jerusalem had become well populated, while the goodly number of the society who still dwelt over in Milo and the region round about were fast developing the resources of their locality.

At that time Yates County had not been organized, nor was its erection then even contemplated, and whatever of history the people of the locality were making by their lives and deeds was a part of the history of the old county of Ontario. But then the formation of Yates County, although that consummation was not reached until 1823, necessarily transferred a wealth of history from old Ontario to the new Yates, and the early record, to be properly preserved, must be incorporated in the volume designed to refer to the region most recently organized, and that notwithstanding the fact that the organization was of later occurrence than the leading events.

The second war with England had its actual outbreak in 1812 and was closed during the year 1815. However before the formal declaration the political situation was such that hostilities might have commenced at any time during the period of three or four years immediately preceding the first conflict at arms, but both countries were then busily engaged in making preparations for the impending and inevitable struggle. During those years, too, the condition of affairs was closely watched by the people living in the southern part of Ontario County, those occupying the particular region of country lying between Canandaigua and Seneca Lakes. But their watchfulness was not of the character that is born of warlike ambition, but was rather the interest that comes from deep concern. It so happened that a fair proportion of the inhabitants of this locality were then or had been members of the Society of Universal Friends, and one of the tenets of that society was opposition to all warfare, whether between countries, societies, sects, or individuals. This principle was not born of fear, but of love, which they taught and held should exist among the members of the human family.

While such was the governing characteristic of the Friends there was another element of local population whose belief inclined them to advocate American independence as paramount to all other considera-

tions. They were guided and actuated by the patriotic sentiment, "country first, the citizen afterward." This element of people comprised the contingent of men furnished by the towns that afterward became Yates County, during the War of 1812-15, but unfortunately there exists no record showing who they were or from what towns they came. Nor has there been preserved any record from which we may learn of the service they performed or of the battles in which they participated. Therefore the reader must be content with but the briefest allusion to the events of the period, and that in a general way, without reference to local interests, for there were no struggles or conflicts within the region that afterward was erected into the county of Yates. During the five years next preceding 1812 the whole country was in a state of nominal peace, but throughout this period there was gathering that dark cloud which was destined to involve the nation in another foreign war.

The events which led to the second war with Great Britain were numerous. The United States had scrupulously observed the provisions of the peace treaty made at the close of the Revolution; had maintained, too, a strict neutrality during the progress of the Napoleonic war with the British kingdom, when perhaps every consideration of gratitude should have induced a participation in it against the mother country. For several years the aggressive acts of the British had been the subject of anxiety and regret, and feelings of animosity increased on this side of the Atlantic. The embargo laid by Congress was found so injurious to commercial interests that it was repealed and the non-intercourse act passed in its stead. In April, 1809, the English ambassador in Washington opened negotiations for the adjustment of difficulties, and consented to a withdrawal of the obnoxious "orders in council," so far as they affected the United States, on condition that the non-intercourse act be repealed. This was agreed to and the President issued a proclamation announcing that on the 10th of June trade with Great Britain might be resumed; but the English government refused to ratify the agreement and recalled their minister, whereupon the President revoked his proclamation and the non-intercourse act again became operative.

War was formally declared on the 19th of June, 1812, but the measure



was not invariably sustained throughout the Middle States. The opposing element was embraced in the Federal party, its chief ground of opposition being that the country was not prepared for war. The Federalists constituted a large and influential minority of the political element of Congress and had a considerable following in the several States not active in politics. They asked for further negotiations and not the denunciations of the ruling party (that is, the Democratic and Republican, for it went by both names) upon the English government with savage and bitter attacks upon Napoleon, whom they accused the leading party with favoring.

What may have been the feeling in this locality during the period of which we write would be indeed difficult to determine, but from all that can be learned it appears that the great mass of the people were heartily interested in the American cause, and were therefore identified with the Democratic and Republican parties' welfare, both at the polls and in the measures then being discussed for the conduct of the coming war. Opposed to them was the Federal party, which, though strong in influence and wealth, was numerically weak. They were wont to call their opponents "Screaming War Hawks" and took to themselves the dignified name "Peace party." The Friends occupied a neutral ground, not that they had no interest in occurring events, or in possible results, but they were checked by a conscientious opposition to warfare in any cause. They were Federalistic in action without themselves being Federalists, but they were nobly and truly patriotic and loyal in their Americanism, but never demonstrative or frankly outspoken in the expression of their convictions. In their quiet and unassuming manner they lent substantial aid to the cause of freedom.

The old inhabitants of this region, the Seneca Indians, following the advice of their renowned sachem, Red Jacket, at first declared for neutrality, but when the British invaded their reservation lands that action was a signal for warlike operations and they became united with American soldiers. The militiamen from Ontario County, therefore from Yates, were under the command of Gen. Amos Hall, who at one time commanded the American troops on the Lake Ontario frontier.

But it does not become this narrative to dwell at length upon the scenes and events, as they have but a remote bearing upon the subject



of which this work purports to treat. The results of the war are written in the conflicts on Lake Erie, the repulse of the British on the Delaware, the invasion of New York, and the attempt to control the Hudson River and Lake Champlain. The battles at Black Rock and Lundy's Lane, the capture of Niagara and Oswego, the burning of Newark, the battle at Plattsburgh, together with naval engagements in American waters were the chief events of the war, and were followed by the withdrawal or surrender of the British forces and the final treaty of peace, which was ratified February 17, 1815. The Americans had fought their last battle with a foreign foe.

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## CHAPTER IX.

Organization of Yates County — The Acts of the Legislature regarding It — Glimpses at the inside History — Naming the County — Governor Yates its Godfather — The first Court-House and Gaol destroyed by Fire — The new Court-House — The second Jail Burned — The present Jail — The Clerk's and Surrogate's Offices — The County Farm and Property — The civil List — Federal Officers — State Officers — County Officers — County Societies and Organizations.

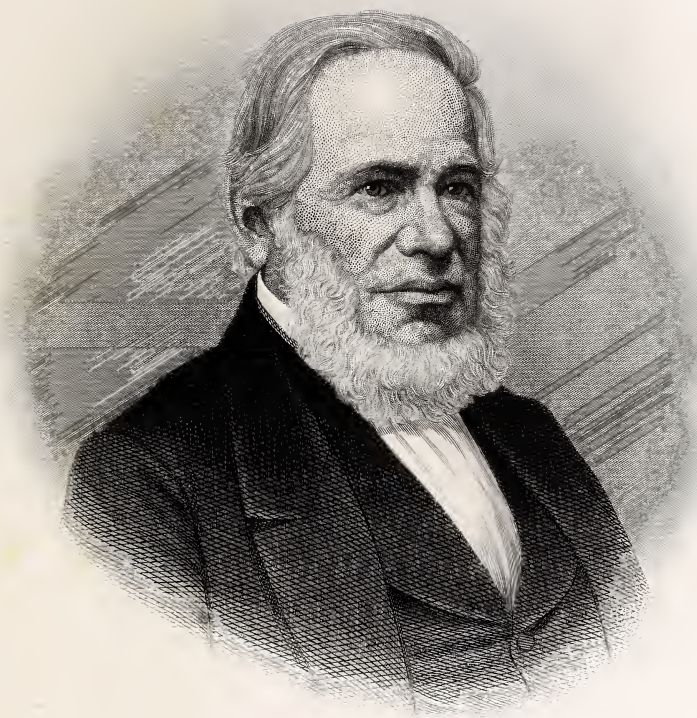
YATES COUNTY was brought into existence by virtue of an act of the legislature of New York passed and adopted on February 5, 1823. The organization of a new county out of the territory of old Ontario became necessary from the fact that the population and interests of its southern towns had by this time assumed large proportions, and the convenience of the people residing in them demanded a subdivision of the mother shire and the erection of a new body politic. This was the ostensible and apparent purpose of the persons most interested in the proposed new formation, and was the chief argument used by the promoters of the scheme,—the convenience of the people,—but underneath the surface lay the desire to gratify political ambition in the breasts of certain individuals. But whatever may have been the motive which actuated the movement it cannot be the province of this work to criticise or commend the action of the persons engaged in it. It was a fair proposition and one that could be productive of none but

good results. The convenience of the majority of the people was a sufficient cause for building up a new county in the State, and had the prime movers in the enterprise been governed by other than pure singleness of purpose the public at large never realized any but substantial and beneficial results in the final consummation.

The enacting clause of the act above referred to reads in part as follows: "All that part of the county of Ontario comprising the territory hereinafter mentioned, viz. : the towns of Benton, Milo, Middlesex, Italy, and Jerusalem, in Ontario County, shall, from and after the passing of this act, be a separate and distinct county by the name of YATES. And the freeholders and other inhabitants of the said county of Yates shall have and enjoy all and every the same rights, powers, and privileges as the freeholders and inhabitants of any of the counties of this State are by law entitled to and enjoy."

Thus was the county erected, but not according to its present area and extent. By an act of the legislature passed the 6th day of April, 1824, supplementary to the original act, an addition was made to the county's territory, as follows: From and after January 1, 1826, all that part of the county of Steuben, including Barrington, and all that part of Reading lying north of the north line of lot No. 15, between the old and new pre-emption lines, and north of an east and west line between the lots numbers seven and eight from the new pre-emption line and the Seneca Lake, shall be annexed to the county of Yates. The second section of the same act also provided that all that part of the town of Reading within the limits aforesaid shall be a separate town by the name of Starkey; and the first town meeting shall be held at the house occupied by Stephen Reeder.

At the time of the passage of the original act creating this county Aaron Remer was one of the members of Assembly from Ontario, the mother county, and as such was of great use and value in bringing the county into existence. The news that the bill had passed was no sooner brought to the ears of the people of Penn Yan and its locality than a committee of strong and leading men at once waited upon the executive at Albany to urge his approval of the measure. This committee comprised Aaron Remer, Morris F. Sheppard, Joel Dorman, William M. Oliver, William Cornwell, and others. They repaired at once to the



*Ellsworth*



capitol, paid their respects to Governor Yates, and addressed him to the effect that "they had called to have him own and acknowledge his new born child," one of the committee then handing him a copy of the bill. "Oh yes, gentlemen," responded the governor, "the executive will with pleasure immediately christen and proclaim his own darling offspring." Then, taking his pen, the governor wrote in a bolder hand than usual these words: "Approved—Joseph C. Yates." This being done the bill was handed back to the visitors with the remark: "There, it is now a law."

The county being duly erected the first step to follow was its full and complete organization, the erection of county buildings at the designated shire town, and the organization of courts and various other branches of local government. The act of 1823 also provided "that John Sutton, of Tompkins County, George H. Feeter, of Herkimer County, and Joseph B. Walton, of Otsego County, shall be commissioners for the purpose of examining and impartially determining the proper site or sites for a court-house and gaol."

It was further provided that "there shall be held a Court of Common Pleas and a Court of General Sessions of the Peace, to be held in three terms, to commence as follows: 1st Tuesday in June, 1st Tuesday in October, and the 2d Tuesday in January." Further it was provided that the first term of court should be held in the house of Asa Cole, in Benton, but still in the village of Penn Yan, and afterward and until the court-house should be completed at such place as the judge of the Common Pleas should designate. Until the "gaol be completed" it was directed by the act that prisoners should be confined in the gaol of Ontario County. Also the Board of Supervisors was directed to meet at the house of Miles Benham, in Milo, to raise money for building a court-house and gaol; the sum of \$2,500 to be raised the first year and a like amount the year following. The worthy commissioners who had been designated to act in the matter of locating the county seat found themselves beset on all sides with aspiring applicants. Penn Yan in Milo of course held the advantage, being the most available and central town of the county, but notwithstanding that the people residing in and near Dresden put forth a claim and re-inforced it with strong argument. Jerusalem also sought the prize, and had her representatives been suc-



cessful what is now Kinney's Corners might have been the seat of justice of Yates County. The claims of Dresden were mainly based upon its proximity to Seneca Lake, the waters of which were then a principal thoroughfare of travel between north and south points. Moreover Dresden lay quite near the ancient site on which first settled the pioneer Friends, and theirs was almost historic ground. Jerusalem became the final home of The Friend, many of her substantial followers being then residents there, and within the borders of the town was as suitable a location as could be desired, and one which would be central and easily accessible to the people of the whole county.

But in the little village of Penn Yan there dwelt men of worth and large influence; men who had been chiefly instrumental in bringing about the county erection and whose judgment in the matter was not to be disregarded. Furthermore Abraham Wagener, with his characteristic generosity and public spiritedness, stepped forward with a donation of a large lot of land and upon which the county buildings should be erected. This tract comprised, according to the deed on record, two acres of land. Penn Yan also was then the most metropolitan village in the county, and with the great influence brought to bear in its favor it could not be otherwise than that the county buildings should be erected there. Wherefore, after patiently hearing all the arguments of interested parties, and after the customary mature deliberation (as a matter of form perhaps), the commissioners designated the village of Penn Yan, in the town of Milo, as the seat of justice of Yates County. This important question being satisfactorily settled it only remained for the supervisors to proceed with the construction of the court-house, jail, and county building. The act had already provided for the raising by tax levy of \$5,000, and had also provided that William Shattuck, of Benton, and George Shearman and Samuel Stewart, of Milo, should be appointed "commissioners to superintend the erection of the court-house and gaol at the place the commissioners first appointed shall designate, provided that suitable lot or lots therefor be conveyed to the supervisors of Yates County and their successors forever." It was this last proviso that Abraham Wagener satisfied when he deeded the two acre tract to the county.

Under the direction of Commissioners Shattuck, Shearman, and Stew-

art the first court-house was erected. It is still remembered by some older residents as a plain, substantial brick building, not vastly different in appearance from the present court-house, but somewhat smaller in size. Its interior was so arranged and constructed as to furnish accommodations for county officers, and also was provided with cells for the confinement of prisoners. In fact it was a sort of combination building for use both as court-house and jail. Yet it was honestly and faithfully built, and ample for the requirements of the county at that time. Unlike many more recent structures in this county and elsewhere the old court-house is understood as having been built within the appropriation.

In 1834, as near as can at present be ascertained, the old court house of Yates County was destroyed by an unfortunate fire. The loss occurred just at noon on the 4th or 5th of the month. Of course it became necessary to erect a new building, the site for which was designated as the same upon which the first structure occupied. The new court-house is still standing, although occasional repairs have been made since 1840. It was not completed and ready for occupancy until about 1835, as is evidenced in the fact that the Common Pleas judges in August, 1834, designated the house of Robert R. Beecher as the place for holding the next term of court. The second court-house was an improvement upon the first in that it was larger, more comfortable, and relieved of the often annoying presence of jail occupants. The lower floor was arranged for county officers' quarters, while the upper story was finished for court uses. The building still stands, and while not attractive in appearance is nevertheless a firm structure. The new jail was built about the same time on the land fronting Liberty street. This was also a substantial building of stone and frame, but was burned about 1857, having been set on fire by a prisoner confined within its walls. The prisoner was Albert Hathaway, of Barrington, who had burned several buildings in his town, but was at last arrested, indicted, and put on trial. The defence made was the more recently popular plea of insanity and the trial resulted in acquittal on that ground.

In 1857 the new and present substantial jail and sheriff's residence was erected. It is of stone, covered with a coating of plastic material. The cells are constructed with solid cast-iron fronts, making the jail department secure as a place of imprisonment and remarkably free from

the possibility of burning. It was built by Charles V. Bush, of Penn Yan, at a cost of about \$8,000. In 1889 there was erected on the courthouse lot an elegant county building for the use of the clerk and surrogate. It is virtually a double building, the north side being the clerk's office and depository for county records, while the south side is occupied on the ground floor as the surrogate's office and above for private offices by the same officer. This building was erected at an expense of about \$10,000 or \$11,000, an amount considerably in excess of the contract price. It was built by Hershel Pierce, of Dundee.

This was the second building of its special kind in the county, the former having stood on the same site, but occupying less ground and being less ornamental. The old so-called county building was a small stone structure and was built soon after the burning of the first courthouse. The front was occupied by the clerk's office and the rear part by the surrogate. It was an unsightly affair and unsuitable for the use required of it; therefore it was torn down to make room for a new and more convenient structure, one that should be a credit to the county which owned it.

The foregoing is a record of the public buildings of the county of Yates which have been and are in use in connection with its administration and governmental affairs. But the county has one other property which demands some notice in this place. Yates County had not been a separate organization for more than four or five years before its people and officers began discussing the question of establishing a home for the unfortunate and indigent element of local population. In 1824 the State legislature passed an act which made a general provision for the maintenance of the poor of the several counties of the State, and under this law the supervisors of the county took the initial steps toward the establishment of a county infirmary. The matter was under discussion early in October, 1829, at which time the supervisors filed with the clerk a certificate which read as follows :

"In compliance with the tenth section of an act passed the 27th of November, 1824, relative to County Poor-Houses, we hereby determine that it will be beneficial to the county of Yates to erect a county poor-house therein.

"Given under our hands this 10th day of October, 1829.

"Jonathan Whittaker, George Youngs, Clarkson Martin, Alfred Brown, Asher Spicer, James Christie, Abraham Maxfield."

Thereafter the supervisors of the county agreed upon the purchase of lands for poor-house purposes. The deed was executed April 14, 1830, by Alfred Brown, of Jerusalem, to the superintendents of the poor of Yates County, Elijah Spencer, Joel Dorman, Jabez French, John Warner, and James C. Robinson, whereby, in consideration of the sum of \$1,200, the grantor conveyed to the grantees, or to their successors in office or legal representatives, 125 acres of land in the town of Jerusalem. This is the same tract of land now in part used by the county as a poor-house farm, although the area of the same has been increased so as to now contain 180 acres.

The Yates County poor-house and its management have at times been the subjects of much discussion, and no little anxiety on the part of the supervisors, the press, and the people of the county as well. There have been charges of corruption and extravagance which may not have been wholly groundless. It was during the period extending from 1855 to 1860 that the subject was uppermost in the public and official mind, but eventually the matter was adjusted, or settled, and affairs resumed their usual quiet state. From that to the present time there has been no serious disturbance concerning the county poor-house management.

Now having at some length referred to the various properties and interests of Yates County it is proper that there should be also made a record of the names of persons who have been identified with the county in the administration of its affairs. In other words the present connection is a proper one in which to publish a complete civil list of officers who have represented Yates County either in Federal, State, or local government :

*Presidential Electors.*—Truman Spencer, 1832; Elisha Doubleday, 1836; Eli Sheldon, 1848; Darius A. Ogden, 1852; Meletiah H. Lawrence, 1856; Myron H. Weaver, 1864; Everett Brown, 1888.

*Members of Congress.*—William Babcock, 1831–32; Joshua Lee, 1835–36; John T. Andrews, 1837–38 (then living at Bath); William M. Oliver, 1841–42; Samuel S. Ellsworth, 1845–46; Andrew Oliver, 1853–54, 1855–56; Daniel Morris, 1863–64, 1865–66.

*Canal Commissioner New York State.*—Darius A. Ogden, November 7, 1876, to February 8, 1878.

*Canal Appraiser.*—Darius A. Ogden, appointed March 1, 1853.

*Inspector of State Prisons.*—George Wagener, elected November 3, 1874.

*Prison Labor Commissioner.*—Darius A. Ogden, appointed February 11, 1884.

*State Senators.*—William M. Oliver, 1827–30, president *pro tempore* in 1829; Richard H. Williams, 1846–47; James Huntington, 1856–57; Abraham V. Harpending, 1870–71; George P. Lord, 1880–83.



*Members of Assembly.*<sup>1</sup>—Aaron Remer, 1823; Philip Robinson, 1824; Avery Smith, 1825; James P. Robinson, 1826; Morris F. Sheppard, 1827–29; Aaron Remer, 1830–31; Joshua Lee, 1832; James P. Robinson, 1833; Meredith Mallory, 1834; Mordecai Ogden, 1835–36; Miles Benham, 1837–38; Samuel S. Ellsworth, 1839; Heman Chapman, 1840; Henry Spence, 1841; Richard H. Williams, 1842; Thomas Seamans, 1843; Ezekiel Castner, 1844; George W. Wolcott, 1845; Nehemiah Raplee, 1846; Hatley N. Dox, 1847; John Wisewell, 1848; Melatiah H. Lawrence, 1849; Samuel Jayne, jr., 1850; Charles S. Hoyt, 1851; De Witt C. Stanford, 1852; D. G. Underwood, 1853; J. R. Van Osdel, 1854; Henry H. Gage, 1855; A. V. Harpending, 1856; John Mather, 1857; Daniel Morris, 1858; George R. Barden, 1859; Gilbert Sherer, 1860; Darius A. Ogden, 1861; Guy Shaw, 1862; O. G. Loomis, 1863; Eben S. Smith, 1864–65; Charles S. Hoyt, 1866; Oliver S. Williams, 1867; Foster A. Hixon, 1868; William T. Remer, 1869; George P. Lord, 1870–71; Morris B. Flinn, 1872; George W. Spencer, 1873; Hanford Struble, 1874; John Sutherland, 1875; Mason L. Baldwin, 1876; Joel M. Clark, 1877–78; Asa P. Fish, 1879–80; John T. Andrews, 1881; Stafford C. Cleveland, 1882; Henry C. Harpending, 1883; Clark E. Smith, 1884–85; George R. Cornwell, 1886–87; William A. Carson, 1888; Calvin J. Huson, 1889; Everett Brown, 1890–91.

*Judges of Common Pleas.*—William M. Oliver, 1823–27; Samuel S. Ellsworth, 1828–32; Cornelius Masten, 1833–37; William M. Oliver, 1838–43; Andrew Oliver, 1844–46.

*Surrogates.*—Abraham P. Vosburg, 1823–26; Andrew F. Oliver, 1827–39; Edward J. Fowle, 1840–43; Evert Van Buren, 1844–46.

The constitution of 1846 abolished the office of surrogate except in counties where the population exceeds 40,000, and devolved its duties on the county judge.

*County Judges and Surrogates.*—Andrew Oliver, 1847–50; John L. Lewis, 1851–54; William S. Briggs, 1855–70; Andrew Oliver, 1871–76; William S. Briggs, 1877–82; Hanford Struble, 1883.

*County Clerks.*—Abraham H. Bennett, 1823–31; George Shearman, 1832–37; Abner Woodworth, 1838–40; Samuel Stevens, 1841–43; David H. Buell, 1844–46; Russell R. Fargo, 1847–49; Alfred Reed, 1850–52; Clarkson Martin, 1853–55; Lewis R. Graham, 1856–61; Alexander Bassett, 1862–64; Samuel Botsford, 1865–67; Alden D. Fox, 1868–70; George W. Spencer, 1871–73; Joseph F. Crosby, 1874–76; Edward M. Carpenter, 1877–79; Horatio N. Hazen, 1880–82; Edward Kendall, 1883–88; Joseph Crosby, 1889–91; William S. Cornwell, 1892.

*Treasurers.*—William Babcock, 1823–26; Henry Bradley, 1829; Eben Smith, 1830–35; E. B. Jones, 1836–39; Leander Reddy, 1841; James D. Morgan, 1844; William Whitney, 1847–51; Stephen B. Ayres, 1852–54; John Ellsworth, 1855–60; James Burns, 1861–71; S. B. Ayres, by appointment, 1872; Seymour Tracy, 1873–75; Oliver G. Shearman, 1876–78; Jareb D. Bordwell, 1879; Daniel F. Randolph, 1880–85; J. Henry Smith, 1886–94.

<sup>1</sup> In the lists of county officers this explanation is necessary: The date of election is given of members of Assembly, county judge, and district attorney; the date of appointment of first judges of Common Pleas; and the date of commencement or term of office of clerk, sheriff, treasurer, and school commissioner.



*Sheriffs.*—James P. Robinson, 1823-25; Ebenezer Brown, 1826-28; Miles Benham, 1829-31; Alfred Brown, 1832-34; Joseph Ketchum, 1835-37; Uriah Hanford, 1838-40; Jeremiah B. Andrews, 1841-43; Smith D. Mallory, 1844-46; Martin Holmes, 1847-49; George Wagener, 1850-52; Nathaniel Squire, 1853-55; Daniel Lanning, 1856-58; William T. Remer, 1859-61; John Underwood, 1862-64; Joseph Crosby, 1865-67; George Wagener, 1868-70; John L. Dinturff, 1871-73; Theodore Bogart, 1874-76; Spencer Clark, 1877-79; Charles Bell, 1880-82; Charles Speelman, 1883-85; Michael A. Pearce, 1886-88; Perry W. Danes, 1889-91; William T. Beaumont, 1892.

*District Attorneys.*—James Taylor, 1826-30; Charles G. Judd, 1831-38; John L. Lewis, 1839-46; Daniel Morris, 1847-50; D. J. Sunderlin, 1851-52; A. V. Harpending, 1853-58; Henry M. Stewart, 1859-61; John L. Wolcott, 1863-67; Hanford Struble, 1868-73; Henry M. Stewart, 1874-76; John T. Knox, 1877-82; Andrew C. Harwick, 1883-85; Charles S. Baker, 1886-91; Thomas Cormody, by appointment from April, 1891, to January 1, 1892; John T. Knox, 1892.

*School Commissioners.*—Henry A. Bruner, 1858-60; George P. Lord, 1859-66; Schuyler Sutherland, 1867-69; J. Warren Brown, 1870-72; Bradford S. Wixon, 1873-75; William F. Van Tuyl, 1876-81; Harlan P. Bush, 1882-84; James A. Thayer, 1885-90; Llewellyn J. Barden, 1891.

While possibly not appropriate subjects of discussion and narration in this particular connection the writer nevertheless makes bold enough to here devote space to a record of the organizations and societies of the county. Of these there are but two in the county that are not local in their general character, and these are the Yates County Agricultural Society and the Yates County Historical Society, which will be treated in the order of seniority.

As early as the year 1840 an agricultural society was organized in Yates County under the name as above given, and from that or the succeeding year there has been held an annual fair in the county, generally at or near the county seat, but occasionally in some other town than Milo. The records of the first year of the society's existence are meager and imperfect, and it is quite difficult to determine whether or not any fair meeting was held during 1840. The first exhibition was held in the court-house park, as were several after that time. For a time also they were held at Dundee. The society at length, about 1857 or '58, obtained a few acres of land on what is now Pine street, not far from where the Catholic school is situated, and here the annual fair was held until the re-organized society obtained the new and more extensive grounds on Lake street.

The first county fair held at Dundee was in the year 1851, and was

thereafter occasionally held there for some time. In 1871 the old grounds on Pine street were disposed of and a lease at once made for the new tract on Lake street. The latter was afterward purchased by the society. The exhibition hall originally used has been transformed into a horse barn and a new and more appropriate building has been erected near the entrance to the grounds. The latter was built during the year 1891. The racing track, half a mile in extent, was laid out and built soon after the premises were occupied. The grand stand was erected by the Penn Yan Driving Park Association, a local organization of the county seat who have a lease-hold interest in the grounds.

But what can be said of the history of the Yates County Agricultural Society? With each annual fair there is some change in the character of exhibits, each recurring event showing some new development of the county's resources. To describe them all would require a volume, and there would be shown a record of no special value or importance. Under the system of business inaugurated by the old society the officers chosen annually were a president, a vice-president from each town, secretary, and treasurer. At a later period the same officers were elected with the addition of an executive board, one member from each town. In 1855, under the laws of 1853, a re-organization of the society was made and the officers thereafter annually elected were president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. The society was organized March 14, 1840. From the time of organization, 1840, to the present the chief officers of the society have been as follows:

There appears to have been no officers elected in 1840. 1841, John Hatmaker, president; Darius A. Ogden, secretary; Eben Smith, treasurer. 1842, Uriah Hanford, president; D. A. Ogden, secretary; E. Smith, treasurer. 1843, Ludlow E. Lapham, president; D. A. Ogden, secretary; Ezekiel Castner, treasurer. 1844, Romulus Gildersleeve, president; L. E. Lapham, secretary; Fitz A. Stebbins, treasurer. 1845, M. H. Lawrence, president; B. L. Hoyt, secretary; F. A. Stebbins, treasurer. 1846, Charles Lee, president; A. Bigelow, secretary; F. A. Stebbins, treasurer. 1847, John Mallory, president; A. Bigelow, secretary; F. A. Stebbins, treasurer. 1848, Adam Clark, president; A. Bigelow, secretary; F. A. Stebbins, treasurer. 1849 and 1850, same as in 1848. 1851, Nathan Raplee, president; James Armstrong, secretary; F. A. Stebbins, treasurer. 1852, M. Holmes, president; R. Gildersleeve, secretary; F. A. Stebbins, treasurer. 1853, Nelson Thompson, president; Edwin R. Randall, secretary; Guy Shaw, treasurer. 1854, Nelson Thompson, president; E. R. Randall, secretary; George Wagener, treasurer. 1855, Nelson Thompson, president; George A. Sheppard, vice-president; W. S. Judd, secretary; J. S. Gillett, treasurer. 1856, Gilbert Sherer, pres-

ident; Samuel V. Miller, vice-president; B. L. Hoyt, secretary; W. S. Judd, treasurer. 1857, William T. Remer, president; Ezekiel Clark, vice-president; B. L. Hoyt, secretary; W. S. Judd, treasurer. 1858, Job L. Babcock, president; Guy Shaw, vice-president; A. F. Stark, secretary; B. L. Hoyt, treasurer. 1859 and 1860, no record. 1861, Guy Shaw, president; John Southerland, vice-president; J. Mallory, secretary; B. L. Hoyt, treasurer. 1862, Guy Shaw, president; John Smith, vice-president; J. Mallory, secretary; B. L. Hoyt, treasurer. 1863, George Wagener, president; John Southerland, vice-president; W. S. Judd, secretary; B. L. Hoyt, treasurer. 1864, John Southerland, president; Joseph Abbott, vice-president; W. S. Judd, secretary; B. L. Hoyt, treasurer. 1865 and 1866, no record. 1867, Thomas J. Lewis, president; Charles H. Ketchum, vice-president; J. D. Jacobus, secretary; James Burns, treasurer, 1868, Thomas J. Lewis, president; C. H. Ketchum, vice-president; G. Y. Eastman, secretary; O. G. Shearman, treasurer. 1869, Charles H. Ketchum, president; Darius Baker, vice-president; G. Y. Eastman, secretary; O. G. Shearman, treasurer. 1870, C. H. Ketchum, president; D. Baker, vice-president; S. C. Hatmaker, secretary; O. G. Shearman, treasurer. 1871, Dudley W. Dox, president; John N. Macomb, jr., vice-president; John W. Stewart, secretary; O. G. Shearman, treasurer. 1872, D. W. Dox, president; J. N. Macomb, jr., vice-president; J. D. Morgan, secretary; O. G. Shearman, treasurer. 1873, William J. Rector, president; O. G. Shearman, vice-president; J. D. Morgan, secretary; G. Y. Eastman, treasurer. 1874, William J. Rector, president; O. G. Shearman, vice-president; J. D. Morgan, secretary; G. Y. Eastman, treasurer. 1875, Rowland J. Gardner, president; Watkins Davis, vice-president; J. D. Morgan, secretary; B. L. Hoyt, treasurer. 1876, R. J. Gardner, president; J. Warner Smith, vice-president; J. D. Morgan, secretary; B. L. Hoyt, treasurer. 1877, Watkins Davis, president; Samuel B. Gage, vice-president; J. D. Morgan, secretary; B. L. Hoyt, treasurer. 1878, Samuel B. Gage, president; Dr. Byron Spence, vice-president; J. D. Morgan, secretary; B. L. Hoyt, treasurer. 1879, Samuel B. Gage, president; James Miller, vice-president; J. D. Morgan, secretary; W. T. Remer, treasurer. 1880, Ira Brundage, president; Frank R. Cole, vice-president; W. S. Judd, secretary; O. G. Shearman, treasurer. 1881 and 1882, Ira Brundage, president; F. R. Cole, vice-president; James A. Thayer, secretary; O. G. Shearman, treasurer. 1883, Ira Brundage, president; A. C. Shearman, vice-president; J. A. Thayer, secretary; O. G. Shearman, treasurer. 1884, Frank R. Cole, president; James C. Spooner, vice-president; J. A. Thayer, secretary; D. F. Randolph, treasurer. 1885, F. R. Cole, president; J. C. Spooner, vice-president; George C. Snow, secretary; D. F. Randolph, treasurer. 1886, F. R. Cole, president; Abner Gardner, vice-president; Charles D. Davis, secretary; O. G. Shearman, treasurer. 1887, Ira Brundage, president; John R. Gardner, vice-president; C. D. Davis, secretary; Charles W. Taylor, treasurer. 1888, John H. Butler, president; H. C. Tallmadge, vice-president; James A. Thayer, secretary; C. W. Taylor, treasurer. 1889, John H. Butler, president; H. C. Tallmadge, vice-president; J. A. Thayer, secretary; E. C. Gillett, treasurer. 1890 and 1891, Reading B. Lefferts, president; Oscar Hazen, vice-president; James S. Whitaker, secretary; E. C. Gillett, treasurer.

In January, 1860, there appeared in the press of the county an "Early Settlers Notice," which read as follows:

"A meeting of those who were settlers of the territory embraced in Yates County prior to its establishment, February 5, 1823, and their descendants, will be held at the office of John L. Lewis, jr., in Penn Yan, on Saturday, January 1, 1860, at one o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of adopting measures to form a County Historical Society, for the collection of the memorials of the early settlement of the towns in the county and of the early settlers, and other kindred facts connected with the history of the county.

"Dated January 16th, 1860.

"Samuel G. Gage, Abner Woodworth, S. S. Ellsworth, W. M. Oliver, A. F. Whitaker, Charles Wagener, Henry Bradley, William S. Briggs, Charles C. Sheppard, John L. Lewis, jr., Josiah C. Swarthout, John D. Wolcott, M. H. Lawrence," and many others.

In accordance with the notice a general meeting was held at the time and place indicated, and for the purpose of temporary organization Russell A. Hunt was chosen chairman and John L. Lewis, jr., secretary. Then a resolution was offered by William M. Oliver and unanimously adopted, as follows:

"*Resolved*, That it is expedient to organize and form a County Historical Society for the purpose of collecting and preserving the memorials of the early settlement of the county and of the early settlers, and all other facts connected with the history of the county, including Indian antiquity and history, and that the necessary measures be taken for that purpose."

By another resolution adopted at this meeting John L. Lewis, jr., William S. Briggs, and M. H. Lawrence were chosen a committee to report articles of association for the purpose of incorporating the society under the general corporation law. The result was the filing a certificate of incorporation on the 4th of February, 1860, which certificate reads in part as follows:

"We, the undersigned, Samuel G. Gage, William S. Hudson, Martin Brown, Squire B. Whitaker, Horace B. Taylor, George S. Wheeler, David H. Buell, and Joseph W. H. Havens, of Benton; James D. Morgan, James Cooley, Cornelius C. Masten, John Hatmaker, Samuel S. Ellsworth, Russell A. Hunt, Darius A. Ogden, Ebenezer B. Jones, John Buxton, Charles Wagener, Stafford C. Cleveland, Adam Hunt, George A. Sheppard, Abraham W. Shearman, William T. Remer, Samuel H. Wells, Alexander F. Whitaker, William S. Briggs, Melatiah H. Lawrence, George D. A. Bridgman, of Milo; Uriah Hanford and Seneca M. Badger, of Jerusalem; John Mather, of Middlesex; and Jephtha A. Potter, of Potter,—being severally citizens of the county of Yates, and of the State of New York, and of the United States, and of full age, do



hereby certify that we have this day formed, and do hereby constitute a body politic and corporate, for ourselves and our associates and successors, under the provisions and in pursuance of the act of the legislature of this State, entitled 'An Act for the Incorporation of Benevolent, Charitable, Scientific, and Missionary Societies,' passed April 12, 1848, and the amendments thereto.

"That the name and title of the said society and corporation, and by which it is to be known in law, is '*The Yates County Historical Society*,' and its place of business is to be in the village of Penn Yan in said county of Yates; that the particular business and objects of said society and corporation are of a literary and scientific character, being the collection and preservation of the facts and materials connected with the early history and settlement of the several towns in the county of Yates and of the settlers thereof, and with the civil, and ecclesiastical, and general history of said towns and of the county, and biographies of its citizens from its settlement aforesaid; and of the various benevolent, charitable, scientific, and missionary and other societies and organizations which do now exist and have existed in the said towns or county; and with Indian history, antiquities, language, manners, and customs within the bounds of said county; and with the natural history and topography of said county, and all other matters not herein enumerated connected with the history of said towns and of the county; and also the collection and keeping of a cabinet of curiosities and such books, maps, papers, and documents, and other articles as may relate to or be connected with the business and objects of the society. That the number of directors to manage said society and corporation is nine, and that the names of said directors for the first year of its existence are Uriah Hanford, Alexander F. Whitaker, Meletiah H. Lawrence, Charles Wagener, Darius A. Ogden, William S. Briggs, David H. Buell, Jephth A. Potter, and John Hatmaker."

Further the certificate was signed and acknowledged before a justice of the Supreme Court by each of the incorporators heretofore named, and by the filing of the certificate with the proper officer the Yates County Historical Society was brought into existence. On the 4th of February, 1860, a meeting of the citizens friendly to the society was held at the court-house in Penn Yan at half past 10 o'clock A. M., at which time the articles of incorporation were duly approved and adopted. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon the society re-assembled and proceeded to elect its first officers, with the following result: President, Samuel G. Gage, of Benton; vice-presidents, Jonathan Taylor, of Barrington, Elisha Doubleday, of Italy, James Brown, of Jerusalem, John Mather, of Middlesex, Samuel S. Ellsworth, of Milo, Baxter Hobart, of Potter, Walter Wolcott, of Starkey, and John A. McLean, of Torrey; recording and corresponding secretary, John L. Lewis, of Penn Yan; treasurer, William T. Remer, of Penn Yan, now of Benton. Much other business



was at this time transacted by the society, prominent in which was the appointment of committees for each town whose duty it should be to report to the society the names of the pioneer and early settlers in each locality, together with other committees to inquire into and report on various subjects of the county's history.

This much of the society's history found its way into a printed pamphlet published during the year 1860. The history that followed was kept in the books of the recording officer of the society, and with his death and the division of his effects the records became scattered, were taken in fact from the county, and are now lost to its people and to the few surviving members of the corporation. From its first meeting and for fifteen or twenty years thereafter meetings of the society continued to be held, but as the original and controlling members were of older stock they did not appear to acquire much of the younger blood in its membership, as their ways and methods were hardly in accord with the popular younger ideas. The result was that after a lapse of about ten or twelve years the society began to decline, meetings were held less frequently, and the corporation became virtually extinct.

In the year 1887, or about that time, an effort was made to effect a re-organization of the old society under the name of the Pioneer Historical Society of Yates County. The invitations and publications of the leading spirits in the movement met with general favor and a new organization was the result. Hon. Hanford Struble was elected president, and a largely attended society picnic and re-union was held in the court-house park. Judge Struble on this occasion delivered one of his most interesting and able addresses, and the meeting was voted a grand success. But even with the young energy infused into the project the society proved to be short lived, and now with the expiration of but five years no trace of the organization is to be found except in the memory of a few of the once active members.

## CHAPTER X.

GEOLOGY OF YATES COUNTY.<sup>1</sup>

THE surface of Yates County is divided by five great ridges extending in a northwardly direction. These ridges gradually decline from a height of 600 to 1,800 feet above Seneca Lake to a gentle undulating region in the towns of Torrey, Benton, Potter, and Middlesex. The first ridge is between West River Hollow and Canandaigua Lake, and ends in an abrupt promontory about 1,000 feet above the valley beneath it and about 1,780 feet above the level of Seneca Lake. The next ridge eastward lies between West River Hollow and Flint Creek or Italy Hollow, ending near Potter Center and in the southern portion of the town of Italy, presenting almost perpendicular sides and rising quite as high as the one west of it. The next is called Italy Hill, and at its highest point, which is very near the middle of the eastern boundary of the town, rises nearly as high as those west of it. West Hill Ridge is next in order and joins with Italy Hill in the southern portions of Jerusalem and Italy, forming a large area of high land. Crossing Larzalier's Hollow, through which the waters of Lake Keuka once flowed into Kashong Creek, we ascend East Hill. This elevation is short, terminating at the north in level lands near the northern boundary of the town of Jerusalem and in Bluff Point at the south. There is a cutting through this ridge at Branchport to Kinney's Corners, which divided Bluff Point from the main land and made an island of it when the level of the lake was seventy-five feet higher than at present. From East Hill we descend into the valley of another former outlet of Lake Keuka, but more recent than the one through Larzalier's Hollow. Between this hollow and Seneca Lake is an elevation which terminates in high lands in the town of Barrington.

The three western ridges are capped with the coarse *sandstones* and *shales* of the lower part of the Chemung group. There are no good outcroppings of this rock in the county, but from surface indications it

<sup>1</sup>By Berlin H. Wright, of Penn Yan, N. Y.

would appear that some of the strata are highly fossiliferous. The coarse white *sandstones* have yielded us some fine specimens of *Dictyophyton tuberosum* (Conrad D.), *Nodosum* (Hall), and *Lepidodendron corrugatum* (Dawson). Contrary to statements heretofore made the Chemung group does not appear in either Starkey or Barrington. The coarse, easily-broken *sandstones* of the lower Chemung are readily distinguished from the fine-grained and tougher Portage rock, even in the absence of fossil remains; and in Italy Hollow, where the junction of the formations may be seen, the difference is very perceptible.

The greater part of Yates County is occupied by the Portage group. The lower portion of the group contains much *iron pyrites* and is divided into thick, solid strata of *sandstone* separated by *shaly* beds. The *sandstone* is quarried in many places and forms a valuable building material. In the southern part of Milo, on the farm of Mr. Valentine, there is a large area of naked rock, or covered in places with a few inches of soil. Here is a fine exhibition of glacial action in the polished and grooved surface. Some of the *striæ* are of considerable depth and all parallel. Deposits of *tufa* and *travertine* are found in moist ravines in this group. Concretions of various sizes and shapes are common and often mistaken for petrifications. Small cubical crystals of *iron pyrites* ("fool's gold") are not uncommon in some places.

Fine water-falls occur in several places. In Eggelston's Gully in Barrington there is one of 100 feet in one unbroken descent. Some very good examples of ripple-marks or mud-waves may here be seen. In Bruce's Gully in Milo are two falls of sixty and forty feet each. Here in Bruce's Gully, about forty feet from the base of the portage, Dr. S. Hart Wright found a fossil which Dr. J. S. Newberry pronounces the only Devonian representative of Agassiz's genus *Pristocanthus* he knows of. The fossil remains are not plentiful, and can best be obtained in quarries and cuttings. At Whitaker's quarry in Milo we have obtained fine specimens of *Orthoceras atreus* (Hall) and *O. thyestes* (Hall). Within the chamber of habitation of a large specimen of the latter, which we collected in this locality, we found two perfect specimens of *Orthoceras*, each about three inches long and with chamber of habitation one inch in diameter. The shell was broken off of one side in getting out the specimen, thus exposing the interior.

At a quarry in the town of Milo we obtained some specimens of *Lepidodendron*, which seem to be *L. primævum* (Rogers), but present the curious peculiarity of having leaf-bases depressed instead of being prominent. (See remarks on this by Dr. J. W. Dawson in the *Quarterly Journal* of the Geological Society, May, 1881.) In the same quarry carbonized remains of immense fern petioles five inches broad and several feet long occur. *Fucoides graphica* (Hall) abounds in the *argillaceous* strata and a magnificent specimen of *Spirophyton*, *sp.* ? was found in the upper shales. *Lunilicardium ornatum* (Hall) occurs sparingly. "Cone-in-cone" and *pyritiferous* nodules of curious shapes occur in the Big Gully. *Cordiopsis robusta* (Hall) is met with quite frequently. William Buxton, of Milo Center, has found three fine specimens of *Plumalina plumaria* (Hall) in the uppermost shales. One of the specimens is fourteen inches long. We have never found *Spirifera laevis* (Hall), though ever on the lookout for it. At the Whitaker quarry in the town of Milo we discovered a fern which Dr. Dawson has indicated as a new genus. The following is his description taken from the *Quarterly Journal* of May, 1881 :

## ASTEROPTERIS NOVEBORACENSIS.

"The genus *Asteropteris* is established for stems of ferns having the axial portion composed of vertical radiating plates of scalariform tissue imbedded in *parenchyma*, and having the outer cylinder composed of elongated cells traversed by lead-bundles of the type of those of *Zygopteris*. The only species known to me is represented by a stem 2.5 centimetres in diameter, slightly wrinkled and pitted externally, perhaps by traces of aerial roots which have perished. The transverse section shows in the center four vertical plates of scalariform or imperfectly reticulated tissues, placed at right angles to each other, and united in the middle of the stem. At a short distance from the center each of these plates divides into two or three, so as to form an axis of from ten to twelve radiating plates, with remains of cellular tissue filling the angular interspaces. The greatest diameter of this axis is about 1.5 centimetres. Exterior to the axis the stem consists of elongated cells, with somewhat thick walls, and more dense toward the circumference. The walls of these cells present a curious reticulated appearance, apparently caused by the cracking of the ligneous lining in consequence of contraction in the process of carbonization. Imbedded in this outer cylinder are about twelve vascular bundles, each with a dumb-bell shaped bundle of scalariform vessels enclosed in a sheath of thick-walled fibers. Each bundle is opposite to one of the rays of the central axis. The specimen shows about two inches of the length of the stem, and is somewhat bent, apparently by pressure at one end.

"This stem is evidently that of a small tree-fern of a type, so far as known to me, not heretofore described, and constituting a very complex and symmetrical form of the



group Palæozoic ferns, allied to the genus *Zygopteris* of Schimper. The central axis alone has a curious resemblance to the peculiar stem described by Unger ('Devonian Flora of Thuringia') under the name of *Cladoxylon mirabile*; and it is just possible that this latter stem may be the axis of some allied plant. The large aerial roots of some modern tree-ferns of the genus *Angiopteris* have, however, an analogous radiating structure. The specimen is from the collection of Berlin H. Wright, of Penn Yan, N. Y., and was found in the Portage group (Upper Erian) of Milo, N. Y., where it was associated with large petioles of ferns, and trunks of *Lepidodendra*, probably *L. chemungese* and *L. primævum*.

"In previous communications to the society I have described three species of tree-ferns from the Upper and Lower Devonian of New York and Ohio; and this species is from an intermediate horizon. All four occur in marine beds, and were, no doubt, drift-trunks from the fern-clad islands of the Devonian Sea. The occurrence of these stems in marine beds has recently been illustrated by the observation of Prof. A. Agassiz, that considerable quantities of vegetable matter can be dredged from great depths of the sea on the leeward side of the Caribbean Islands. The occurrence of these trunks further connects itself with the great abundance of large petioles (*Rhachiopteris*) in the same beds, while the rarity of well-preserved fronds is explained by the coarseness of the beds and also by the probably long maceration of the plant-remains in the sea-water."

Nowhere in the county does the rock change in character sufficiently to warrant the sub-divisions which Professor Hall gives to this group in Livingston and Allegany Counties. The entire thickness of the group in Yates County cannot be less than 1,000 feet.

The next formation in the natural order downward is the Genesee slate. This extends the entire length of the county from north to south, and there are many fine exhibitions of the entire thickness of the dark, fissile, carbonaceous shales, but the fossil remains are but sparingly distributed. In a ravine near Shingle Point on Seneca Lake there is a stratum about two feet thick, and near the middle of the formation, which abounds in fossils, among which are the following: *Lepidodendron* sp.? very large and fine; *Goniatites*, sp.? very large and fine; *Leiorhynchus quadricostata* (Vanuxem); *Lingula spatulata* (Vanuxem); *Discina lodensis* (Vanuxem); *Discina truncata* (Hall); and a large number of small gasteropods. *Septaria* of all sizes from a few inches to two feet in diameter and of many curious shapes occur plentifully. The major part of them are over ten inches in diameter and flattened. They usually contain cavities which are lined with crystals. Usually the calcareous filling in the *septaria* and the body are worn away unequally, producing



many curious forms, and many of the people along the exposure of these *shales* possess their "petrified turtles."

This is the first formation encountered in passing down the outlet of Lake Keuka (Crooked Lake). At Randall's mills these *shales* form an abrupt cliff seventy feet high and intensely black. They extend to the oil-mill, a mile below where the water tumbles over a cascade of fourteen feet, formed by the Tully *limestone*.

It seems proper at this point to describe what we believe to be a fault which occurs in the strata at the outlet. At the oil-mill the Tully *limestone* and Genesee *slate* are almost level in an east and west direction, and incline very slightly to the south. This condition maintains throughout the outlet and in the ravines leading thereto wherever they are visible. The Tully may be traced for many rods below the oil-mill, standing out in bold relief, while the *shales* above and below it crumble away. It disappears, having "run out," and for about one-half mile we find the upper portion of the Hamilton group (the Moscow *shale*) filled with its characteristic fossil remains. One mile farther down and forty feet lower we again find the Tully with the Genesee *slate* above it and the fossiliferous blue Moscow *shales* beneath, almost perfectly level. It is impossible to tell just where the fault occurs and its direction, owing to the superincumbent soil. In Bruce's Gully, a little farther down, it is quite apparent that the break occurs about twenty rods from the entrance, and possibly by removing a few tons of soil the line could be found. We should say that it followed the general direction of the outlet and was, perhaps, its originating cause. Prof. S. G. Williams, of Cornell University, examined the locality with me and fully concurs in the opinion expressed.

This formation varies in thickness from eleven to fourteen feet and is divided into from three to five well defined layers, varying in thickness from one to four feet. The upper stratum is much the thinnest. The upper surface of the third layer at Bellona is covered with pits of many curious and suggestive shapes. Many people believe them to be veritable tracks, and this belief has been strengthened of late by reason of sensational accounts of the wonderful "tracks of men, children, dogs, cows, mastodons," etc., which have been published by a correspondent of a Rochester paper, who took plaster casts of some of the mastodon and

human (?) tracks and sent them to editors and scientific men. It is evident that the "tracks" are solely the result of the eroding action of the elements. Water has, without doubt, been confined in its course between these layers. It is a fact that these cavities do, in many instances, bear a striking resemblance to the tracks of men and animals. We have walked for a rod or more taking natural strides and stepping in well fitted pits each time.

At several places the Tully limestone is much flecked; at Bellona the dip to the north is  $4^{\circ}$ . In the town of Starkey it is undulatory. The two upper layers have a remarkable growth of corals. At Bellona the following abound: *Alveolites goldfussii* (Billings), *Favosites argus* (Hall), *Zaphrentes simplex* (Hall), *Heliophyllum halli* (Edward and Haime), and *Cystophyllum americanum* (Edward and Haime). There is also a form that resembles the last in structure, but is greatly flattened and attains a length of two feet. Where these corals occur the limestone is so impure as to be hardly worthy of the name, being dark, loose, and "rotten." No brachiopods or other fossils are found with the corals.

The third layer contains a few fossils; the fourth and fifth many. It is useless to look for *Rhynchonella vanustula* (Hall) above the lowest layer. They are most frequently found within a foot of the base, accompanied by a small, circular, flattish species of *Atrypa*. This seems to be what Mr. Vanuxem named *A. lentiformis*, and which has been considered by more recent authors as identical with *A. reticularis* L. Although the two agree perfectly in markings we have never, among thousands of the latter species, found one that agreed with the former in shape. Nor have we ever collected from the Tully a specimen of *Atrypa* larger than a half-grown *A. reticularis*, such as are found in the shales below. The *A. lentiformis* (Vanuxem) is always less ventricose, smaller, and more nearly circular. *Orthis tulliensis* (Vanuxem) occurs with *R. venustula* also, but more sparingly than the last, and we have never found either above or below the Tully. *Loxonema nexilis* (Phill.) is not uncommon. *Proetus marginalis* (Con.) has been found here.

William Buxton found a very fine specimen at Bellona resembling *Nautilus magister* (Hall), but it does not enlarge so rapidly; also a fine *Cyrtoceras* sp.? William Coon, of Milo Center, N. Y., found the largest

and most perfect *Orthoceras* we have ever seen from Devonian rocks in the Tully *limestone* at Bellona. These are the only cephalopods we have ever seen or known of having been found in the Tully *limestone* in this county.

There is a cave of considerable size in the gully near the "old Friend House" in the town of Torrey. The entrance is only large enough to admit a small boy, and children have crawled in a distance of fifteen or twenty feet, projecting in front of them a long pole with a torch at the end, thus being enabled to see a considerable distance and to observe side chambers. About a rod from the entrance there is a sudden contraction of the passage way which prevents further progress, but it enlarges greatly beyond this point. Some fine stalactites have been taken from beneath the *limestone*.

The formation is finely exposed in Yates County, appearing in Kashong Creek in the town of Torrey, formerly the shore line of Seneca Lake, as far south as Shingle Point, and cropping out in the outlet of Lake Keuka. Near Hopeton is an outline which was once an island in Lake Keuka. This is called the "Sugar Loaf." On the west and south sides of Sugar Loaf, which is about sixty feet high, the rock is free from soil and certain fossils may be collected there in abundance. The top is capped with the Tully *limestone*, which projects several feet beyond the *shales* beneath. Frequent calcareous layers about two inches thick occur here. These consist wholly of fossil remains. The following are abundant at Sugar Loaf: *Athyris spiriferoides* (Eaton); *Athyra reticularis* (Linn); *Chætetes fruticosus* (Hall); *Strombodes distorta* (Hall); *Streptelasma rectum* (Hall); *Amplexus* sp.? *Spirifera granulifera* (Hall); *S. medialis* (Hall); and *S. mucronota* (Con.). The finest exposition of this formation and also of the succeeding *Encrinal limestone*, Ludlowville and Marcellus *shales*, is in Kashong Creek in the town of Benton. Here all the fossils found elsewhere in the county (below the Portage) occur, and many not found in other localities. As the remaining formations of Yates County are best seen in Kashong Creek we invite attention to that locality.

This creek has its source in the swampy lands in the western part of the town of Benton, and has at two different periods been the channel through which the waters of Lake Keuka have reached Seneca Lake.

By the way it will be seen that it has its origin in the Portage group and runs through all the lower formations in the county. A few rods south of Bellona the Genesee *slate* and Tully *limestone* appear near an old saw-mill. After leaving this point on the route to Seneca Lake, through Kashong Creek, we first descend through fifty-five feet of nearly horizontal *shale*, occasionally interrupted by layers of *sandstone*. In this, and about two-thirds the distance down, we found the spine or a new species of *Ctenacanthus*. This stratum terminates in a bed of *pyritiferous* shales. This is followed by eight feet of coarse shales, which are remarkably rich in *Strophodonta*, and is succeeded by another layer of *pyritiferous* nodules twelve feet thick, and this by seven feet of calcareous *shales*, exceedingly rich in well preserved fossil remains, though in a portion of this layer (the *argillaceous shales*) fossils are abundant; it is difficult to obtain perfect specimens. In the calcareous layers, which are from two to eight inches thick, fossils are most common and can usually be obtained free from gangue. The following are plentiful: *Tropidoleptus carinatus* (Conrad), *Chronetes mucronata* (Hall), *Orthis vanuxemi* (Hall), *O. leucosia* (Hall), *Spirifera granulifera* (Hall), *Modiomorpha concentrica* (Conrad), *M. macilenta* (Hall), *Atrypa reticularis* (Linn), *Michelinia stylopora* (Eaton), and *Mytilarca oviformis* (Con.). Several species of undescribed fossils in the genera *Peterinea aviculopecten*, *Platyostoma*, *Loxonema*, *Fenestella*, *Fistulipora*, and *Alveolites*.

Fragmentary portions of *Pfactors rana* (Green) and *Dalmanites boothi* (Green) are very common also, but perfect specimens of the former are not common and of the latter only three have been found here that we are aware of. The articulations of *Homalonotus dekayi* (Green) are frequently found, but Mrs. B. H. Wright and William Buxton have found the only heads (two) that we know of from this locality. This stratum continues to the brink of the first fall, where the character of the rock changes from a loose, calcareous *shale* to solid, compact layers of a lighter color. Here occur several pot-holes, one of which is two feet in diameter and the same in depth. These are near the brink of a fall of nearly thirty feet. In the lower portion of this layer are some fine *Cypricardites*, with most of the species found above. Then follows a calcareous stratum seven feet thick containing many crinoidal fragments. This rests upon the *encrinal limestone*, which is about three feet thick and



forms the brink of the middle fall of twenty-nine feet. This *encrinal limestone* is quite hard, takes an excellent polish, and being made up almost wholly of crinoidal stems and rays makes a fine polished slab. There is but one brachiopod which is plentiful in this *limestone*.

*Pentamerella papilionensis* (Hall), *Eridophyllum verneuillianum* (Ed. and H.), and *Diphyphyllum gigas* (Rominger) are very plentiful also. Among the crinoids are several undescribed species,—see *Dolatocrinus liratus* (Hall) and *Megistocrinus depressus* (Hall). Fine gasteropods are plentiful throughout this and the preceding formations, but are best preserved and obtained in best condition in this *limestone*. Among the commonest are *Pluerotomoria filitexta* (Hall), *P. itys* (Hall), *Macrocheilus hamiltoniæ* (Hall), *platyostoma lineata* (Conrad), *Platyceras thetis* (Hall), *P. symmetricum* (Hall), and *P. carinatum* (Hall). After making a detour around the falls it is at once apparent that we are in a different formation by the greenish color of the *shales*. We believe that all the fossils found in this formation, the Ludlowville *shale*, are found in the higher beds, but the reverse is far from being true. Brachiopods are quite scarce and there is a general thinning out of representatives of all the orders. These *shales* are succeeded by darker ones, thirty-five feet thick, containing nearly the same fauna. These continue to the lower fall, which marks the beginning of the dark Marcellus *shales*, which continue to Seneca Lake. The only fossil which is here plentiful in the Marcellus *shales* is *Orthoceras subulatum* (Hall).

The thickness of these formations was obtained by taking a series of levels from Bellona to Seneca Lake. The results cannot be far from correct, as the dip in that direction is scarcely appreciable. My father, Dr. S. Hart Wright, a practical surveyor and engineer, assisted me in the work, and the results may be relied upon as correct.



## CHAPTER XI.

## YATES COUNTY IN THE WAR OF 1861-65.

THERE are times in the history of nations when the voice of reason is unheeded; when the laws are trampled upon; when the counsels of the wise are disregarded and the dictation of statesmen ignored. It grows out of the struggles of men for power, in the race for political preferment, in contests for personal recognition with a determination to triumph regardless of expressed wishes of majorities, and to secure success at a sacrifice of the rights of others; there is but one natural, legitimate outcome of such revolts—*revolution*. This generation has witnessed and been participants in the crucial period of our nation's existence, when no settlement of the vexed questions was possible save by the arbitrament of the sword.

From the hour that man first learned that it was possible to take the life of his brother the stronger has reached the goal of his ambition at the cost of blood; some nations have gone out in the smoke of battle while others have enlarged their territory and brightened their civilization by victorious armies. Many are looking for the coming of a time when reason will so far sway the human mind as to make war no longer a necessity; such may be the case and is earnestly hoped, yet it is hardly expected until man has gone at least one round higher on the ladder of evolution. For many years prior to 1860 strong antagonism had existed in this country between two sentiments—the South was the enemy *par excellence* of free labor and the North of slave labor. Advocates of these principles were earnest and determined, and their respective views enlarged until the remotest corners of our territorial limits became more or less impregnated with the prevailing ideas. The political contest of the year was fevered and exciting. Never before had so much depended upon the result of the ballot. There were murmurings so significant that they could be felt, and preparations of a character that carried alarm to a nation that had devoted all her energies and resources to the fertile labors of peace. Then followed an assault

upon the integrity of the ballot and the will of the majority, an innovation which, if successful, must of necessity destroy our republican form of government. The voice of reason was drowned in the thunder of cannon. The question to solve was, Should liberty and union no longer walk hand in hand, and if either was to go out, which? How sudden the transformation of the peaceful citizen to the uniformed soldier! Volunteers were furnished in every county, town, and neighborhood of the great North. Nearly every citizen realized that it was his duty to be loyal and to serve his country in the way he best could.

The county of Yates was no exception to the rule. She freely sent her sons and their blood crimsoned the soil of a hundred battlefields. They fell at Gettysburg and Lookout Mountain, in the Wilderness and at Cold Harbor, at Petersburg and in the valley of the Shenandoah. The Spartan mothers gave their sons with a heroism that has been the admiration of the world since those chivalric days, but they did not excel the mothers of America in their unselfish sacrifice of their household idols.

The hardships incident to soldier life, suffering from wounds and disease and the surrendering of young lives, presents a chapter of patriotism that warms the heart of every American citizen in its contemplation, but the years and months that came and went, while the father, and the mother, and the wife, and the sister waited in their homes; when the heart stood still as the hurried stranger knocked at the door; when the hands trembled as the message was opened; and when in hushed words they expressed a doubt whether the wound would kill or had already killed the soldier in whom so much of their interests centered. Who did the most or suffered the most when the shadows of war darkened our land? who can say?

Little Yates was as strong in her devotion to the Union cause as any locality in State or nation. There were a few exceptions where stupidity, ignorance, and a lack of self-respect warped men out of line and let them sink from respectable notice; their influence then was lighter than air, and since they have not been trusted by either those who fought for or against the flag. Over \$600,000 were raised to recruit the army, or about one tenth of the assessed valuation of the entire property of the county. Names of vast numbers of men and women

could be mentioned who did not go beyond the county limits during the years of the Rebellion who struggled as earnestly for the preservation of the Republic as the soldier at the front, but we refrain from entering upon the list for fear of doing injustice to many who might be overlooked or for want of space whose deeds could be only meagerly narrated. They all did well their part. Who can do more? The cost was great, but no more than commensurate with what was secured. A restored nationality! A free people! An enduring government! To the eye of man the future is hidden in deep obscurity, but we feel assured that the storm of war with its destructive forces will never again break upon our fair inheritance. We have learned the full meaning of patriotism; we have shown to the world that we know how to take care of our rights as a people, and that those rights will be maintained, let the cost be never so great.

#### THIRTY-THIRD REGIMENT N. Y. V.

Devotion to the Union and loyalty to the national government were evinced in a conspicuous manner by the great northern uprising in 1861. And in this movement no small part was taken by the patriotic citizens of Yates and the neighboring counties. The Thirty-third New York Volunteers, which was then raised in this part of the State, was one of the first regiments to go to the front. The regiment was recruited by companies as follows: A, C, and K in Seneca County; B in Wayne County; D and H in Ontario County; E and F in Livingston County; G in Erie County; and I in Yates County. Of the latter a particular account will be given.

An the 19th of April, 1861, three days after the attack on Fort Sumter, was issued the President's proclamation calling for 75,000 men. Immediately after the news of such proclamation reached Penn Yan a war meeting was called in Washington Hall. Gen. Alexander F. Whitaker presided and George R. Cornwell was secretary. Several addresses were made and the session continued till a late hour. A roll was presented and thirty-four names were obtained. A much larger gathering was held on the evening of April 25th, with bands of music parading the streets and playing national airs. Resolutions were adopted to raise a company of volunteers and recruits came forward

freely. The Republican and Democratic Central Committees combined in a call for a county mass meeting and union assembly, which took place in the court-house park on Saturday, April 27th. A procession was formed under the direction of Gen. A. F. Whitaker, aided by Gen. George Wagener, and led by martial and brass bands. Morris Brown, esq., was president of the day and over 5,000 persons were in attendance on this occasion. Stirring addresses were delivered by Hon. Darius A. Ogden, Hon. Henry Spence, Gen. A. F. Whitaker, and Abraham V. Harpending, esq. At that meeting was appointed a finance committee consisting of Messrs. Farley Holmes, Ebenezer B. Jones, Darius A. Ogden, and Charles C. Sheppard, who circulated a subscription to raise funds to provide for the families of volunteers.

The military company now recruited, and which at this time was known as the "Keuka Rifles," assembled on the 9th of May in Washington Hall, and was there inspected by Maj. John E. Bean, of Geneva, and mustered into the State service. An election was held for officers on the same day, resulting in the following being chosen: Captain, James M. Letts; first lieutenant, Edward E. Root; second lieutenant, William H. Long. The company continued to drill under its officers until orders were received to go into camp at Elmira on the 19th of May. On that day the company departed and was escorted to the railroad depot by the Penn Yan firemen in uniform and a vast crowd of citizens. The company was presented by the ladies of Penn Yan with a beautiful flag, and was addressed on its departure by Hon. D. A. Ogden and E. B. Jones. A testament was also presented to each member. The men on their arrival at Elmira were quartered in Rev. Thomas K. Beecher's church and on the 24th of May became Company I of the Thirty-third New York Volunteers, and with the history of this regiment from that date the history of the company is identified. Eight of the companies previously mentioned had already arrived in Elmira, then an ordinary place of rendezvous for troops going to the front. The officers of these companies met on May 17th and decided upon forming themselves into a regiment, the two other companies afterward joining them. The organization of the new regiment was rendered complete by the election of officers on the 21st of May. Robert F. Taylor, of Rochester, a gentleman of warlike taste and ability, who had served in Mexico, was



appointed colonel. The other field and staff officers then elected were : Lieutenant-colonel, Calvin Walker, Geneva ; major, Robert J. Mann, Seneca Falls ; adjutant, Charles T. Sutton, New York city ; quartermaster, H. G. Suydam, Geneva ; chaplain, Rev. G. N. Cheney, Rochester ; surgeon, T. Rush Spencer.

The Thirty-third Regiment, when organized, was assigned to barracks in Southport, where it remained until the departure for Washington. An interesting event of the sojourn in Elmira was the reception of a regimental flag from the patriotic ladies of Canandaigua. The regiment being formed in a hollow square Mrs. Chesebro, with a few felicitous remarks, presented the banner to Colonel Taylor, who in a brief speech expressed the thanks of himself and command for the beautiful gift, promising that it should never be dishonored or disgraced. Chaplain Cheney also in response delivered an able and eloquent address to the delagation. This flag was made of the finest blue silk, bearing upon one side the coat-of-arms of the State of New York and on the reverse the seal of the county of Ontario adopted in 1790. Over this seal appeared in bold gilt letters the words : "Ontario County Volunteers." Surmounting the staff was a highly finished carved eagle with extended pinions, the whole forming one of the most elegant battle-flags ever wrought by fair hands. On the 3d of July the regiment was mustered by companies in the United States service for two years by Captain Sitgreaves, a regular officer. Five days later the command started for Washington and was assigned on arrival to Camp Granger, about two and one-half miles from the city. While the regiment was here encamped there occurred the disastrous battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861. The distant sound of cannon all that day was distinctly heard in the camp. Toward evening the Thirty-third, along with several other regiments, received marching orders, but had proceeded no farther than the Treasury Department, when the orders were countermanded. William Riker, sergeant, Company I, died at Camp Granger on August 28th. The regiment took up a new position at Camp Lyon near Chain Bridge, and was here brigaded for the first time, being placed together with the Third Vermont and the Sixth Maine under the command of Gen. W. F. Smith. On the 3d of September the entire brigade crossed the Long Bridge into Virginia. The Thirty-third



first occupied Camp Advance, changing soon after for Camp Ethan Allen. While at the latter camp the regiment had its first skirmish with the enemy. Camp Griffin was the next place of residence, and while here occurred at Bailey's Cross-Roads a grand review of the army by General McClellan, attended also by President Lincoln and other distinguished personages. James M. Letts resigned December 31st and was succeeded by Edward E. Root as captain of Company I.

An advance on Richmond along the peninsula between the York and James Rivers having been decided upon the Thirty-third Regiment embarked at Alexandria on March 23, 1862, and proceeding by steamer reached Old Point Comfort the next morning. Here the command disembarked and went into camp about four miles distant on the James River. Yorktown was invested on the 4th of April, but hardly had the siege commenced when contrabands brought the intelligence that the enemy had evacuated the place. The Army of the Potomac followed in pursuit of the retreating Confederates, and on Monday, May 5th, was fought the battle of Williamsburg. In the beginning of the action three companies of the Thirty-third (Company A, Capt. George M. Guoin, afterward lieutenant-colonel of the One Hundred and Forty-eighth Regiment N. Y. V.; Company D, Lieut. George W. Brown, commanding; and Company F, Capt. James M. McNair), with regimental colors and color-guard, were ordered to occupy a redoubt a short distance from the enemy. This was quickly done amid a heavy fire of artillery and musketry, and the beautiful banner remained waving from the battlements throughout the fierce conflict, torn and tattered for the first time by shot and shell. Company C, Capt. Chester H. Cole; Company E, Capt. Wilson E. Warford; Company H, Capt. Alexander H. Drake (born in Yates County); and Company I, Capt. Edward E. Root were deployed by Colonel Taylor as skirmishers. The remaining companies of the regiment (Company B, Capt. Josiah J. White; Company G, Capt. Theodore B. Hamilton; and Company K, Capt. Patrick McGraw) were stationed on guard duty under the command of Lieut.-Col. Joseph W. Corning. All day the fight continued and toward night a sudden and furious attack was made by the enemy upon Hancock's position, then occupied in part by the Thirty-third. Companies A, D, and F were ordered out of the redoubt into line of battle as the Con-

federates came rushing on, shouting "Bull Run! Bull Run! That flag is ours!" The enemy's flying artillery also moved forward and discharged shot and shell in quick succession. The Federal lines wavered and all seemed lost when the lieutenant-colonel, turning to Colonel Taylor, remarked "Nothing but a charge can check them." "A charge it shall be," he replied, and waving his sword aloft shouted "Forward, men!" "Charge bayonets!" added Lieutenant-Colonel Corning and the Thirty-third sprang forward on the double-quick, when its gallant action was imitated by several regiments along the line. Alarmed at this sudden counter-charge the enemy turned and ran in confusion, while the Thirty-third poured volley after volley upon the Confederates as they rapidly retreated over the plain. This daring exploit of the regiment decided the fortunes of the day and changed a seeming defeat into a substantial victory. Company I, commanded by Captain Root, and which with Companies C, E, and H was on the skirmish line, at this time encountered and fired upon a party of Confederates, who, supposing our soldiers to be friends, cried out, "Don't fire, you are shooting your own men." Captain Root ordered them to surrender, and they were all made prisoners, much to their surprise and chagrin. One of their officers attempted to escape, but Captain Root started after him and compelled him to deliver up his sword. On the evening of May 7th General McClellan rode into camp on his favorite bay charger, "Dan Webster," and thus addressed the regiment while drawn up in line:

*"Officers and Soldiers of the Thirty-third:* I have come to thank you, in person, for gallant conduct on the field of battle on the 5th inst. I will say to you what I have said to other regiments engaged with you. All did well—did all that I could expect. But you did more; you behaved like veterans; you are veterans; veterans of a hundred battles could not have done better. Those on your left fought well; but you won the day; you were at the right point, did the right thing, and at the right time. You shall have Williamsburg inscribed on your banner."

The regiment was next engaged (May 24th) in battle at Mechanicsville and on the 28th of June at Golden's Farm. Here its capture was attempted by an overwhelming force of the enemy, consisting of the Seventh and Eighth Georgia Regiments, but in the effort the Confederates were repulsed with great loss. The Thirty-third was highly complimented for its bravery by General Davidson, a loyal Virginian,

in his report of the action. An attack of the enemy was also successfully resisted (June 29th) at White Oak Swamp during the retreat to the James. Colonel Taylor there commanded the Third Brigade (to which the Thirty-third belonged), the regiment itself being in command of Maj. John S. Platner.

On the 1st of July occurred the engagement at Malvern Hill. The Thirty-third was here posted with others of our forces among lines of batteries, which the Confederates several times fiercely attacked, but in vain. Charge after charge was made by the enemy, only to be repulsed with fearful slaughter. The determined bravery of the Confederates evoked cheers from the Unionists themselves. But to carry the Federal position was beyond their power. "In several instances," says General McClellan, "our infantry withheld their fire until the attacking column, which rushed through the storm of canister and shell from our artillery, had reached within a few yards of our lines. They then poured in a single volley and dashed forward with the bayonet, capturing prisoners and colors and driving the routed columns in confusion from the field. . . . The result was complete victory." In the afternoon of July 3d the regiment, which all through the retreat had formed a portion of the rear guard of the army, reached Harrison's Landing. Afterward going by transport it arrived and went into camp (August 24th) at Alexandria, from there marching to the battlefield of Antietam. In this fight, which was on the 17th of September, the Thirty-third was foremost in action, losing alone fifty men in killed and wounded. Among the former was Sergeant-Major George W. Bassett, of Yates County, a brave and popular officer. He was shot through the head on returning to the front, after having carried Lieut. Lucius C. Mix, who had been severely wounded, from the field. First Lieut. William Hale Long, of Company I, was promoted November 25th to captain and assistant adjutant-general and on the 1st of December George Brennan, orderly-sergeant of the same company, was promoted to first lieutenant. The regiment crossed the Rappahannock on December 12th on pontoon bridges laid by the Fiftieth New York Engineers, and next day was in the battle of Fredericksburg, where its loss in killed and wounded amounted to over 200. Having remained in camp near White Oak Church during the first four months of 1863 the command on the

2d of May participated in the storming of Marye's Heights. These were gallantly carried, and on the summit the regimental colors were unfurled in triumph to the breeze. In the charge up the heights many of the regiment were killed and wounded, among the latter being Captain Root, of Company I. The battle of Salem Heights, fought May 4th, was the last in which the Thirty-third was engaged.

On Tuesday, May 12, 1863, Colonel Taylor informed the men in his command that, their term of service having expired, they were to go home on the coming Friday. The order for their departure was accompanied by parting addresses from the corps, division, and brigade generals, each address containing a graceful acknowledgment of the past services of the regiment. Farewells were uttered by members of other regiments who had fought side by side with the Thirty-third, and on the 17th of May the regiment arrived at Elmira. The Saturday following the Thirty-third came to Geneva, where an address of welcome was delivered by Hon. Charles J. Folger. A bountiful repast was also served at Camp Swift to the returned soldiers by the ladies of Geneva. On Monday, May 25th, the regiment proceeded to Canandaigua, where a splendid ovation was received from the citizens. The buildings were handsomely decorated with the national colors and triumphal arches spanned the principal streets. The veterans, together with the Canandaigua firemen, formed in procession and marched to the Court-House Square and were here addressed by Hon. Elbridge G. Lapham. The procession again formed and passed through various streets to the fair grounds, where the regiment gave an exhibition of the manuel of arms. J. P. Faurot, esq., made a brief speech of congratulation, to which Lieutenant-Colonel Corning responded. Colonel Taylor then returned to the ladies of Canandaigua the regimental banner received from them two years before. Handing the flag to the committee he remarked that it had been given to his command with the pledge that it should never be sullied by cowardice or a dishonorable act, and it had never been. It was a beautiful flag when presented to the regiment, but was now torn and soiled, but to him and the regiment it was all the dearer. He had no doubt it would be dearer to those who gave it as a relic of the bravery and patriotism of the men of the Thirty-third, who, when he assumed command, were 800 strong,



but now less than 400 remained. On receiving back the banner the ladies presented an address, which was read by A. H. Howell, esq. A parting speech to the regiment was delivered by Chaplain Augustus H. Lung. A sumptuous banquet, served at the Canandaigua House by the ladies of the village, closed the services. The same evening the Thirty-third returned to Geneva and on Tuesday, June 2, 1863, was assembled on the green in front of the barracks, by Captain Beirn of the regular army, and there mustered by companies out of the service. On the 20th of June a grand reception was given at Penn Yan to the members of Company I. Led by Lieutenant Brennan as senior officer they marched to the sound of martial music through the principal streets and were served with a collation at the Benham House. The flag presented to the company two years before was returned to the ladies of Penn Yan and appropriate addresses were made by Hon. D. A. Ogden and Rev. Frederick Starr. Several who had belonged to Company I, and to other companies in the Thirty third Regiment, subsequently re-enlisted in other commands.

The following is the muster roll of Company I of the Thirty-third Regiment, added to which is a list of the regimental and line officers at the time of muster out :

*Officers of Company I.*—James M. Letts, captain; Edward E. Root, lieutenant; William H. Long, ensign; Charles Howe, first sergeant; William Riker, sergeant; Edward S. Rice, sergeant; Henry Atwater, sergeant; Richard J. Harford, corporal; Peter V. Mead, corporal; David A. Cook, corporal; John Dunham, corporal; Lamson Morse, John Oliver, musicians.

*Privates.*—Joseph Agins, Patrick Ambrose, John Ashley, Daniel G. Baker, Oliver Baker, James Ball, Dorr Barber, Charles Bishop, James J. Boyd, Cornelius Bonney, Freeman M. Brazee, George Brennan, Patrick Brennan, Charles Brown, Charles Chapman, Augustus A. Chidsey, Archibald Coleman, Charles Comstock, Thomas Conway, Bruen Cooley, George W. Corey, James W. Corey, Daniel Daily, John Davis, William Decker, Putnam Demming, John Durham, William H. Eddy, James Firmin, John Forshay, Charles Forshay, Sylvester Fredenburgh, Charles Gage, William Gates, John Gordon, George W. Goundry, Jonah Hartwell, Josiah Holcomb, John A. Holmes, Lewis B. Holmes, Martin Hope, Lewis G. Horton, Delos C. Hubbard, William Humphrey, William W. Hunt, Eugene Hunt, Thomas Hunter, Charles Hyatt, Fenton C. Hyland, William Johnson, William H. Keane, Clement W. Kidder, George Madden, Michael Mahar, Hackett Merritt, Charles Miller, Augustus Murdock, Christopher Nash, John E. Neary, John Newlove, Jeremiah S. Pierce, William F. Pierce, William Plaisted, Charles P. Quick, George Quick, Byron F. Randolph, Oliver Raplee, Henry M. Reppenger,



George Reynolds, James Royce, Lewis Shaw, George Shearman, Nehemiah Shultz, Charles Shuter, William V. R. Sloan, Owen Smith, Jeremiah Sprague, George S. Wells, Peter S. Wheaton, Samuel Wheaton, Edward Wheeler, James White, Menzo Wixson, John G. Wolcott, John Woodruff, George Youngs.

*Regimental and Line Officers.*—Colonel, Robert F. Taylor; lieutenant-colonel, Joseph W. Corning; major, John S. Platner; adjutant, John W. Corning; quartermaster, Henry N. Alexander; chaplain, Augustus H. Lung; surgeon, D'Estaing Dickinson; assistant surgeon, Duncan MacLachlin.

Company A: Captain, Edwin J. Tyler; first lieutenant, Prince Wesley Bailey; second lieutenant, Thomas H. Sibbalds. Company B: Captain, Henry J. Draime; first lieutenant, Lucius C. Mix; second lieutenant, John J. Carter. Company C: Captain, Chester H. Cole; first lieutenant, Robert H. Brett; second lieutenant, James E. Stebbings. Company D: Captain, Henry J. Gifford; second lieutenant, William E. Roach. Company E: Captain, Wilson E. Warford; first lieutenant, John Gummer. Company F: Captain, James M. McNair; first lieutenant, Henry A. Hills; second lieutenant, John F. Winship. Company G: Captain, George A. Gale; first lieutenant, George W. Marshall; second lieutenant, Byron F. Brain. Company H: Captain, Alexander H. Drake; first lieutenant, Otis Cole; second lieutenant, Sylvester Porter. Company I: Captain, Edward E. Root; first lieutenant, George Brennan. Company K: Captain, Patrick McGraw; first lieutenant, Barnard Byrne; second lieutenant, Edward Carey.

#### ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH REGIMENT N. Y. V.

Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, received on the last of June, 1862, a communication signed by seventeen of the war governors of the North recommending him to "fill up all military organizations then in the field that had become reduced by the unavoidable casualties of the service, and to create new regiments for the defence of positions gained, by calling on each State for its quota of a body of men sufficient for such purposes." The President's reply in part was as follows:

"Fully concurring in the wisdom of the views expressed to me in so patriotic a manner by you in the communication of the 28th of June I have decided to call into the service an additional force of 300,000 men. I suggest and recommend that the troops should be chiefly of infantry. I trust they may be enrolled without delay, so as to bring this unnecessary and injurious civil war to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion."

The call for troops made as above by the President was dated July 1st and on the 2d a proclamation was issued by Hon. Edwin D. Mor-

gan, governor of New York, for the raising of the quota of the State. Governor Morgan subsequently issued an order fixing the quotas of the several counties, and requiring a regiment to be raised in each senatorial district, which for the time was re-named "Regimental District." For each district a war committee was appointed to take charge of the recruiting of the regiment of that district and to recommend the proper persons to officer such regiment. The war committee appointed by the governor for the Twenty-sixth Senatorial District held the first meeting at Geneva on the 11th of July, said committee being composed of certain prominent citizens from the counties of Ontario, Seneca, and Yates. From the last named county the members of the war committee were as follows: Hon. William S. Briggs, county judge, Morris Brown, esq., Stafford C. Cleveland, editor of the *Yates County Chronicle*, Charles S. Hoyt, M.D., Meletiah H. Lawrence, esq., Hon. Darius A. Ogden, and Gen. Alexander F. Whitaker.

Recruiting immediately commenced, and on the 4th of August the rendezvous for the regiment to be raised in this district was opened at Camp Swift, Geneva. The position of commandant of this post was first offered to Hon. Charles J. Folger, of Geneva, and then to Hon. Darius A. Ogden, of Penn Yan. Each having in turn declined Hon. Eliakim Sherrill, of Geneva, was chosen and was commissioned colonel of the regiment upon its organization. War meetings were held in all parts of the senatorial district, particularly in our county of Yates, where great enthusiasm was manifested, and recruiting went on rapidly. Company A, recruited entirely in Yates County, was the first company in the new regiment to rendezvous at Camp Swift. The second was Company B, recruited principally in Yates County. Recruits from this county were also in Companies C, D, E, F, G, H, and K. On August 20th the regiment, which was called the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth New York Volunteers, was organized and on the 22d it was regularly mustered into the United States service.

On that date the One Hundred and Twenty sixth Regiment comprised 39 officers and 956 enlisted men, or a total of 995. The regimental and line officers at the time were as follows:

*Officers.*—Colonel, E. Sherrill, Geneva; lieutenant-colonel, James M. Bull, Canandaigua; major, W. H. Baird, Geneva; quartermaster, J. K. Loring, Waterloo; surgeon,

Fletcher M. Hammond, Penn Yan; first assistant-surgeon, Charles S. Hoyt, Potter; second assistant-surgeon, Pierre D. Peltier, Canandaigua; chaplain, T. Spencer Harrison, Dundee; sergeant-major, D. C. Farrington, Geneva; quartermaster-sergeant, John Stevenson, Seneca Falls; commissary-sergeant, Richard Macey, Geneva; sutler, J. D. Cobb, Geneva.

*Line Officers.*—Company A: Captain, T. N. Burrill; first lieutenant, S. A. Barras; second lieutenant, G. D. Carpenter. Company B: Captain, W. A. Coleman; first lieutenant, R. A. Bassett; second lieutenant, M. H. Lawrence, jr. Company C: Captain, W. Scott; first lieutenant, T. R. Lounsbury; second lieutenant, A. W. Porter. Company D: Captain, P. D. Phillips; first lieutenant, C. A. Richardson; second lieutenant, S. F. Lincoln. Company E: Captain, H. D. Kipp; first lieutenant, George C. Pritchett; second lieutenant, J. H. Brough. Company F: Captain, Isaac Shimer; first lieutenant, Ira Munson; second lieutenant, T. E. Munson. Company G: Captain, J. F. Aikins; first lieutenant, Frederick Stewart; second lieutenant, S. H. Platt. Company H: Captain, O. J. Herendeen; first lieutenant, G. N. Redfield; second lieutenant, A. R. Clapp. Company I: Captain, B. F. Lee; first lieutenant, G. Skaats; second lieutenant, G. L. Yost. Company K: Captain, Charles M. Wheeler; first lieutenant, H. C. Lawrence; second lieutenant, I. A. Seamans.

The regiment left Geneva for the front August 26, 1862, and arrived at Baltimore the next day. By orders given by the veteran general, John E. Wool, who commanded the middle department, the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth proceeded to Harper's Ferry, reaching there the 28th. The regiment had been directed to report for instruction and duty to Col. D. H. Miles, then commanding at Harper's Ferry, and which on its arrival was already occupied by the Thirty-ninth and One Hundred and Eleventh Regiments N. Y. V., the Thirty-second Ohio Volunteers, the Twelfth New York State Militia, the First Rhode Island Battery, and a portion of the Fifth New York Heavy Artillery. On the 13th, 14th, and 15th of September Harper's Ferry was invested by three divisions of the Confederate army commanded respectively by Generals McLaws, Walker, and "Stonewall" Jackson. Early in the morning of the 13th the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment advanced from Harper's Ferry to Maryland Heights. It there received the main force of the enemy's attack, and made under very disadvantageous circumstances a brave and creditable defence. Its loss in this engagement was thirteen killed and forty-two wounded. Among the latter was Colonel Sherrill, who, receiving a severe wound in the face, was for some time disabled from active service. On the 15th the garrison at Harper's Ferry surrendered on parole. Any of the causes

which are said to have brought about this disastrous result need not here be stated. Having marched to Annapolis the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment was transferred to Camp Douglas, Chicago. At this place were located for two months its far from desirable quarters, where the accommodations and sanitary arrangements were alike injurious to the health of all and fatal to many. Adjutant J. Smith Brown, of Colonel Berdan's United States Sharpshooters, here joined on the 17th of November the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth, having accepted the adjutancy of the same. The regiment was exchanged November 19th and proceeding to Washington was re-armed. The winter of 1862-63 was passed in camp at Union Mills, Va., doing picket duty along the banks of the famous Bull Run. On the 27th of January, 1863, Colonel Sherrill, having sufficiently recovered, rejoined the regiment, which during his absence had been under the command of Lieut.-Col. James M. Bull. The camp was moved March 2d to Centerville, Va., where the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth united with the balance of a brigade comprising the Thirty-ninth, the One Hundred and Eleventh, and the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth New York Volunteers, and commanded by Brig.-Gen. Alexander Hays, who had won distinction in the Peninsular Campaign. On the 24th of June the regiment joined the Army of the Potomac, then marching to intercept Lee, who was making a second attempt to invade the North. The One Hundred and Twenty-sixth now became a part of the Third Brigade of the Third Division of the Second Army Corps under Hancock. Brigadier-General Hays was at this time assigned to the command of the Third Division, and was succeeded as commander of the brigade by Col. George Lamb Willard, of the One Hundred and Eleventh N. Y. V.

After a most fatiguing march from Centerville the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth arrived in the early morning of July 2d on the battlefield of Gettysburg. Toward night it took part along with the brigades in a glorious charge that resulted in the defeat and dispersion of the opposing forces of Southerners. As this charge was being made Colonel Willard, the brigade commander, was killed, while on the side of the enemy fell Barksdale, who had commanded a Confederate brigade at the taking of Harper's Ferry. During the terrific cannonading between the two armies with which began the engagement of the day following volun-



teers from the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment came forward and manned the guns in the batteries where the regular artillerymen had been killed or wounded. When in the afternoon a grand assault was made by the Confederates against the Federal lines the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth acted well its part toward the repulse of the foe. Five stands of colors were taken by the regiment on this occasion. Capt. Morris Brown, jr., of Yates County, captured with his own hands one of these standards, on which was inscribed "Harper's Ferry" and the names of eleven other battles. The surrender of Harper's Ferry was redeemed at Gettysburg. The brave Colonel Sherrill, who, when Colonel Willard fell, had succeeded to the command of the Third Brigade, was mortally wounded, expiring the next day, and most fittingly on the anniversary of American independence. Five other officers and fifty-five enlisted men belonging to the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment were killed in this, one of the most important battles of the war, while seven officers and 161 enlisted men were wounded. Among the slain officers was Color-Sergeant Erasmus E. Bassett, of Yates County, who fell during the first day's fight while bravely carrying the regimental colors. An active part was taken by the regiment after the battle in the pursuit of the enemy.

From Gettysburg until the close of the war the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth participated in twenty different battles and skirmishes. In the autumn of 1863 the regiment won additional honor for its conspicuous gallantry in the battles of Auburn Ford and of Bristow Station, which were fought respectively in the morning and afternoon of October 14th. Severe skirmishing also took place at Mine Run on the 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th of November. The services of the regiment were again called upon in the grand reconnaissance made February 6, 1864, by the Army of the Potomac at Morton's Ford on the Rapidan. On the 24th of March Lieut.-Gen. U. S. Grant arrived and established his headquarters at Culpepper Court House. The regiment, having been transferred to Barlow's division, entered the spring campaign of 1864 with less than 300 men, of whom 100 were on duty as provost-guard at corps headquarters. The Army of the Potomac crossed the Rapidan on the 4th of May and was afterward engaged in the following battles, in all of which the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regi-

ment took part: May 6th and 7th in the Wilderness (in this battle Brevet Maj.-Gen. Alexander Hays was killed while gallantly rallying his brigade); May 10th at Po River; May 12th to the 18th at Spottsylvania, where the Second Corps, to which the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment belonged, made a grand charge on the enemy's works, capturing 400 prisoners, 20 guns, and 30 stands of colors, together with the Confederate Generals Edward Johnson and G. H. Stewart, who were taken to the rear and put under guard of colored soldiers. From the 23d to the 31st sharp skirmishing occurred along the North Anna and Tolopotomy Rivers. The One Hundred and Twenty sixth Regiment then took part in the terrible battle of Cold Harbor from the 1st to the 12th of June. On the 16th the regiment moved to the front of Petersburg and in the engagement on that day Col. William H. Baird was killed. Heavy fighting also occurred here on the 17th and 18th. The Second Corps on the 21st advanced to the left of Petersburg and on the 22d was attacked by the enemy in force and on the left flank. The One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment was at this time commanded by Capt. Morris Brown, jr., of Yates County, who fell with others of merit in the heat of the action.

On the 26th of July the regiment was engaged in battle at Deep Bottom on the James and from the 14th to the 20th of August at Strawberry Plains. Having aided effectually in the destruction of the Weldon Railroad the regiment was attacked on the 25th at Reams Station. In the following spring of 1865 the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment participated in the assault made March 25th on the lines around Petersburg, just after the attack by Lee upon Fort Steadman. From the 29th to the 31st the regiment was engaged on the skirmish line along the Boydton plank road. When the retreat of Lee's army began the Third Brigade, in which was included the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment, was particularly active in the pursuit, and led by the gallant Gen. C. D. MacDougall charged (April 2d) and carried the enemy's entrenchments at Southerland's Station. The Confederates were again encountered April 7th at Farmville and at Appomattox on the 9th, where on that day Lee surrendered to Grant. The One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment, having resumed its march, passed on the 7th of May through Richmond. Here it was greeted by the One

Hundred and Forty-eighth New York Volunteers, in which regiment Companies B, F, and I had been recruited in Yates County. This was the first time the two regiments had met while in the service. The One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment proceeded to Washington and took part in the grand review held in that city on the 23d of May. Orders were received June 2d for the regiment to be mustered out and sent to the State rendezvous, and on the 3d the regiment was mustered out. The next day the men left Washington for Elmira, N. Y., arriving at that place on the 6th, and there meeting their former colonel, James M. Bull. The One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment, numbering at this time 221 men, received final payment and discharge at Elmira, June 16th and 17th, 1865.

The following is the muster roll of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth on the mustering out of the regiment :

*Officers.*—Major, J. Smith Brown, Penn Yan ; adjutant, John F. Randolph, Penn Yan ; quartermaster, John C. Stanton, Geneva ; surgeon, Fletcher H. Hammond, Penn Yan ; assistant-surgeon, Ferdinand M. Pasco, Red Creek ; chaplain, T. Spencer Harrison, Dundee. Company A : Captain, Ira Hart Wilder ; first lieutenant, Samuel Hughes. Company B : first lieutenant, Milo H. Hopper ; second lieutenant ; Charles A. Garlinghouse. Company C : Captain, John B. Geddis ; first lieutenant, Thomas R. Lounsbury ; second lieutenant, Jordan Snook. Company D : Captain, Ten Eyke Munson ; first lieutenant, Charles W. Watkins. Company E : first lieutenant, Henry M. Lee ; second lieutenant, Clinton E. Pasco. Sergeant-major, Albert S. Andrews ; quartermaster-sergeant, John Davis ; commissary-sergeant, Charles R. Lisk ; hospital steward, George W. Becker ; principal musician, Lyman E. Jacobus.

Muster-in roll of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment New York Volunteers :

*Company A.*—Truman N. Burrill, captain ; Samuel A. Barras, first lieutenant ; George D. Carpenter, second lieutenant ; Morris Brown, jr., orderly ; Samuel Wilson, first sergeant ; Charles Forshay, second sergeant ; Wallace Betts, third sergeant ; O. M. Paris, fourth sergeant ; Daniel Kelly, first corporal ; Smith Fuller, second corporal ; Barnard Gelder, third corporal ; Charles Stebbins, fourth corporal ; David H. Goff, fifth corporal ; Smith Stebbins, sixth corporal ; Lot W. Rogers, seventh corporal ; Charles Norcott, eighth corporal ; William Beebe, drummer ; James McAllister, fifer. Privates : Richard M. Allen, Warren Allen, William Axtill, Oliver Baker, William Baker, Daniel J. Beyea, Henry Bilson, Levi P. Brizee, George Burch, James Burns, George A. Byington, Alvah B. Chissom, Levi Cole, John Conklin, John Cummings, Eben B. Danes, William H. Dubois, A. R. Feagles, Daniel W. Finch, John H. Frost, John H. Garrison, Barnard F. Gelder, William Hainer, Francis A. Harford, John Harris, James Henderson, Abner Herries, William Herries, James R. Hibbard, William P. House, Neil Kelly,

Russell A. Lincoln, Orson R. Jinkletter, David Little, John C. Mace, Patrick Manly, John D. Maynard, George W. McKnight, Arthur W. Middleton, George Millis, Charles E. Moore, Henry O. Moore, Alexander Mosher, Lewis Murphy, Charles M. Nicholson, John J. Oakley, Alfred C. Olds, David H. Paris, Peter F. Paris, John W. Parker, Harlow F. Parsons, Lewis T. Partridge, Francis E. Pool, Robert H. Pool, William J. Pool, Charles H. Power, Calvin L. Reed, Sidney E. Rice, William Robinson, James Ryan, Albion C. Sheppard, Cyrus Sherwood, William H. Shoemaker, Spencer Slingerland, Charles W. Sterling, George T. Stevens, William W. Strobbridge, Charles P. Strong, David D. Taylor, David E. Taylor, James Taylor, David O. Tears, Thomas Tobin, Isaac Traverse, Spencer Turner, Alexander Turner, Phineas Tyler, William R. Tyndall, Thaddeus B. Twitchell, John Vaughn, James E. Warner, Charles E. Waters, Martin Youngs.

*Company B.*—William A. Coleman, captain; Richard A. Bassett, first lieutenant; Melatiah H. Lawrence, second lieutenant; Oscar C. Squire, first sergeant; T. Spencer Harrison, second sergeant; Erasmus E. Bassett, third sergeant; Henry P. Cook, fourth sergeant; Henry O. Childs, fifth sergeant; Edwin Jessop, first corporal; Edward Knapp, third corporal; Martin V. McCarrick, fourth corporal; George Hays, fifth corporal; George Chapman, sixth corporal; Samuel A. Nichols, seventh corporal; Henry S. Nichols, eighth corporal. Privates: William H. Armstrong, Charles W. Austin, Melvin Bunce, Rollin G. Beach, William P. Bowen, James F. Butler, James Badger, Oren Bates, Ansel Brace, Reuben Bullock, Nathan D. Beeden, John Blansett, James M. Booth, Moses U. Booth, Isaac Bellis, William Cassion, Edwin Coryell, Benjamin F. Chase, Isaac P. De Pew, Charles H. Dunning, George W. Davis, Oren Edgett, Rowland Le Roy Embree, Horace F. Ellis, John W. Finger, Mortimer Garrison, Charles W. Gaylord, James H. Griggs, James K. P. Huson, Christopher Houghtailing, Will L. Hobart, William A. Hays, Amos V. Houghtailing, Charles M. Hyatt, Elsworth Haight, Egbert C. Hopkins, Frank R. Hamlin, Alexander H. Houghtailing, Charles C. Hicks, James E. Hicks, Joseph Hollowell, James H. Lathy, Luther C. Lott, Richard H. Miles, Nelson Millis, James H. Moshier, Edgar F. Millard, William McAllister, Anson Matthews, Thomas T. McCarrick, George Moore, Elias A. Norris, Peter M. Norman, John H. Osborn, Caleb J. Osborn, Charles R. Pinneo, Franklin J. Pettingill, David Perigo, Stephen C. Purdy, Orin Potter, Amos J. Potter, Andrew Putnam, Albert A. Quick, William Raymond, John N. Roney, Joseph B. Snyder, Orlando B. Smith, Albert S. Sprague, Wilber F. Stanton, Robert B. Sutton, Charles P. Stevens, Asa Sherwood, Charles A. Seward, Albert Thomas, Lewis Trimmer, George Tyler, Joseph R. Tuttle, John R. Tuttle, William H. Thomas, James W. Updike, James E. Walker, Jerry Wall, Josiah Wolf, Richard Wheaton, David J. Wilkin, Luther Weaver.

*Company C.*—Albert F. Dow and Myron C. Morse, both transferred from Company A.

*Company D.*—Henry W. Bradt, Charles W. Ford, Decatur A. Hedges, Albert A. Murdock, Eugene M. Smith.

*Company E.*—John H. Brough, second lieutenant; Fayette Green, first sergeant; John F. Randolph, enlisted private and promoted corporal, sergeant, sergeant-major, first lieutenant, and adjutant, Charles E. Raymond, musician. Privates: Aaron H. Abeel, Jewett Benedict, Robert D. Blaurett, Albert L. Bogart, Jerome Brink, Taylor Brink,



James A. Creed, Jonathan Creed, Theron T. Dunn, Alonzo Harris, Franklin R. Knapp, John Olf, Edwin Palmer, Henry Runyan, Sherman W. Robinson, Stephen Walker, Henry Wilson.

*Company F.*—James M. Barden, Eli R. Hazlet, and A. W. Shearman.

*Company G.*—Frederick Stewart, first lieutenant; De Witt C. Farrington, sergeant-major. Privates: William Bain, John Barron, Patrick Bulger, James Collins, John P. Culver, Daniel Day, John Dunnagan, Frank Dunnagan, John Duffy, Jacob Goodsell, George Henry, David J. Hoffman, Daniel Mead, James Place, A. J. Ralph, Milfred Rector, John Rector, James Snyder, Charles B. Shaw, James Toms.

*Company H.*—Justus Cooley, jr., corporal; Abijah De Pew, private.

*Company H.*—William L. Criscaden, corporal; privates, George W. Erwin, James Norman, Hiram Wilson.

#### ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT N. Y. V.

Important service to the nation was rendered during the great Civil war by the One Hundred and Forty-eighth Regiment New York Volunteers, which was raised in the counties of Yates, Ontario, and Seneca, and organized September 14, 1862. At the time of its organization the field and staff officers were as follows: Colonel, William Johnson, Seneca Falls; lieutenant-colonel, George M. Guyon, Seneca Falls; major, John B. Murray, Seneca Falls; adjutant, Henry T. Noyes, Starkey; quartermaster, Albert Woodruff, Lodi; surgeon, Henry Simmons, Canandaigua; first assistant-surgeon, C. H. Carpenter, Phelps; second assistant-surgeon, Frank Seeley, Rushville.

In Yates County were recruited Companies B, F, and I. Of these the following were the line officers: Company B: Captain, Hiram T. Hewitt; first lieutenant, Hiram Struble; second lieutenant, George W. Waddell. Company T: Captain, Harvey G. Gardner; first lieutenant, Melvin D. Wilson; second lieutenant, Aaron J. Cook. Company I: Captain, Martin S. Hicks; first lieutenant, Morgan D. Tracy; second lieutenant, John Cooley.

The One Hundred and Forty-eighth left the place of rendezvous at Camp Swift, Geneva, on the 22d of September. The regiment when it departed consisted of twelve companies. Ten being the required number orders were received on the arrival of the command (by steamer *via* Seneca Lake) at Watkins directing two of the companies to return to Geneva. The two companies that returned became, on the 3d of October, part of the Forty-fourth Regiment N. Y. V. One of these two had

been raised in Yates County and was at first Company M of the One Hundred and Forty-eighth and later Company C of the Forty-fourth. Its line officers were as follows: Captain, Bennett Munger; first lieutenant, Elzer B. James; second lieutenant, Charles Kelly. The One Hundred and Forty-eighth Regiment proceeded from Watkins by rail, arriving at Baltimore the next morning, and was there served with an excellent breakfast by the ladies of the city. The command went on to Washington, where it continued to drill for several days on Capitol Hill. It then left Washington, and going by transport by way of Fortress Monroe landed at Portsmouth, Va. From Portsmouth the regiment went by rail through the Dismal Swamp to Suffolk and was there stationed on guard duty in the rifle pits. Suffolk was then being put into a state of defence by the Union forces commanded by General Peck, of Syracuse. The One Hundred and Forty eighth after a few weeks moved from the entrenchments and encamped on Paradise Creek near Portsmouth. The whole regiment then relieved the Nineteenth Wisconsin and moved and went into camp, part in Portsmouth and part across the river in Norfolk. The different companies composing the One Hundred and Forty-eighth were for a considerable time on detached duty, but were again collected together and were all encamped in the court-house yard in Norfolk and in other parts of the town. Here they remained until the opening of the spring campaign of 1864. The regiment then moved to Yorktown and became part of the Second Brigade of the Second Division of the Army of the James, under the chief command of Gen. B. F. Butler.

The advance of this army up the James River began on the 4th of May, 1864. The One Hundred and Forty-eighth Regiment, going by transport, arrived and landed with the rest of the troops at Bermuda Hundred. Skirmishes with the enemy occurred at Clover Hill on the 8th and at Swift Creek on the 12th. Early in the morning of the 16th, during a heavy fog, a sudden and sharp attack was made upon our forces in front of Drury's Bluff by the Confederates under Beauregard. The Union troops fought bravely and obtained some advantage, but Butler, evidently under a misapprehension, ordered a retreat. Another skirmish in which the One Hundred and Forty-eighth took part occurred on the 26th at Port Walthall Junction. The whole army re-

turned to its entrenchments at Bermuda Hundred, from which position no offensive movements in the direction desired could possibly be attempted. As General Grant in his official report says: "This army, while here, though in a position of great security, was as completely shut off from further operations against Richmond as if it had been in a bottle strongly corked. It required but a comparatively small force of the enemy to hold it there."

The position at Bermuda Hundred could, on the other hand, in General Grant's opinion, be held by a less force than Butler had under him; therefore on the 24th of May the Eighteenth Corps, in which was included the One Hundred and Forty eighth Regiment, was ordered to join the Army of the Potomac. The corps commander at that time was Gen. W. F. Smith, familiarly known as "Baldy" Smith, and who had formerly commanded a brigade of which the Thirty-third New York Volunteers had formed a part. The One Hundred and Forty-eighth joined the Army of the Potomac by way of the White House, to which place it arrived by transport, passing down the James and up the York Rivers. On the 3d of June the regiment participated in the battle of Cold Harbor. In the sanguinary contest in front of Petersburg a prominent part was taken by the One Hundred and Forty-eight, particularly in the fight at Rowlett's House on the 15th. At the mine explosion in the morning of July 30th the regiment with its division was ordered forward to the support of the attacking column that charged into the crater. On the 29th of September the very strong fortifications and entrenchments below Chapin's Farm, on the north side of the James and known as Fort Harrison, were carried in an attack by the Eighteenth Corps led by Gen. E. O. C. Ord. The regiment distinguished itself in this action and proved to all that its designation as "the gallant One Hundred and Forty-eighth" was well deserved. In the assault on Fort Gillmore, however, on the same day, a repulse followed. At the battle of Fair Oaks, fought October 27th, the regiment suffered severely in killed and wounded. In the beginning of November the larger part of the One Hundred and Forty-eighth Regiment was detailed with other forces to accompany General Butler to New York city for the purpose of keeping order on election day, as it was anticipated that a riot would take place on that occasion.

On the 2d of April, 1865, occurred the decisive conflict (participated in by the One Hundred and Forty-eighth) which resulted in the final defeat of Lee and the evacuation of Petersburg and Richmond. The next morning, "amid blazing roofs and failing walls, smoke and ashes, and the deafening reports of explosions," the soldiers of the Union entered the latter city in triumph. The very remarkable scene which was on that morning presented is thus described by E. A. Pollard, the Southern historian :

"By 10 o'clock, when several thousand of the [Federal] enemy had marched into the city, the scene had become fearfully sublime. It was a scene in which the horrors of a great conflagration struggled for the forepart of the picture, while the grand army, brilliant with steel and banners, breaking into the circle of fire with passionate cheers, and the crash of triumphant martial music, dazzled the spectator and confounded his imagination. The flames had already spread over the chief business portion of the city, brands were flying toward the capitol, and it seemed at one time as if the whole of Richmond would be destroyed—that the whole wicked city would rush skyward in a pyramid of fire. A change in the wind, however, drove back the fire from the high plateau above Franklin street, where, if the flames had once lodged, they would soon have traversed the length and breadth of the city. . . . All that was terrible in sounds was added to all that was terrible in sights. While glittering regiments carried their strong lines of steel through the smoke; while smoke-masked robbers fought for their plunder; while the lower streets appeared as a great pit of fire, the crater of destruction; while alarmed citizens who had left their property a ruin or a spoil found a brief repose on the sward of the Capitol Square, whose emerald green was already strewn with brands—the seeds of fire that the merciless wind had sown to the very door of the capitol; while the lengthening arms of the conflagration appeared to almost reach around those who had fled to the picturesque hill for a breath of fresh air,—sounds as terrible, and more various than those of battle, assailed the ear and smote the already overtaxed imagination. There were shells at the Confederate arsenal exposed to the fire, from the rapid progress of which they could no longer be rescued, and for hours the explosion of these tore the air and shook the houses in their vicinity. Crowds of negroes



roamed through the streets, their wild, coarse voices raised in hymns of jubilation, thanking God for their freedom, and a few steps farther might be heard the blasphemous shouts of those who fought with the red-handed fire for their prey." <sup>1</sup>

The regiment on April 2d took part in the charge by which Fort Gregg, south of Petersburg, was captured, and in the engagement on the 6th at Rice's Station. On the 9th of April Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House. While in Richmond after the surrender the One Hundred and Forty-eighth had the pleasure of greeting (May 7th) the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth New York Volunteers, in which regiment a large proportion of the members were from the county of Yates. The One Hundred and Forty-eighth Regiment was mustered out at Richmond on the 20th of June. The veterans who had composed the command then went by transport to Baltimore, where they took their departure for their several homes, having performed for their country a service that will ever stand high in public estimation.

The field and staff officers of the One Hundred and Forty-eighth Regiment at the time it was mustered out were as follows :

*Officers.*—Colonel, John B. Murray, Seneca Falls; lieutenant-colonel, Fred L. Manning, Seneca Falls; major, John Cooley, Penn Yan; adjutant, D. C. Wilber, Seneca Falls; quartermaster, Charles J. Martin, Waterloo; surgeon, C. H. Carpenter, Seneca Falls; chaplain, Ferris Scott, Phelps; hospital steward, James M. Smith, Penn Yan. Company B: Captain, H. H. Hopkins. Company F: Captain, Aaron J. Cook; first lieutenant, Fred P. Cook. Company I: Captain, Edward Cole; second lieutenant, Luther Meeker.

The muster-in roll of the regiment, by companies, is as follows :

*Company B.*—Hiram T. Hewitt, captain; Hanford Struble, first lieutenant; George W. Waddell, second lieutenant; R. G. Bacon, orderly; James M. Shoemaker, second sergeant; George Beebe, third sergeant; Le Grand Terry, fourth sergeant; Myers T. Webb, fifth sergeant; Anson A. Raplee, Byron Beam, Charles Smith, Leroy Green, David Griswold, Perry W. Danes, James H. Coons, John Debolt, corporals. Privates: Henry N. Armstrong, Samuel S. Benham, Alfred Brown, Charles W. Bush, Andrew Bradley, Henry F. Buckley, Joseph Conklin, George W. Chamberlain, Daniel Cook, Foster P. Cook, Richard Chapman, Charles Chambers, William H. Chambers, Harmon O. Chambers, John Clark, George Coons, Joseph B. Clark, William B. Davis, David Dunham, James M. Egerton, Alvin B. Eaves, James S. Ellis, Charles H. Elwood, James E. Foster, George G. Fulkerson, Luidla C. Foster, Benjamin Grace, Alfred Griswold, Charles W. Gabriel, Myron A. Guthrie, Samuel Headley, Albert Headley, Alexander

<sup>1</sup> Life of Jefferson Davis, with a Secret History of the Confederacy, page 496.

P. Houghtailing, Freeman L. Hilligrass, Francis L. Hall, John L. Headley, David Houghes, Volney S. Haff, John Kean, John H. Knapp, George Katterer, Jerome B. Lefaver, Thomas H. Little, Elisha Lackey, Warren McDuffee, Theodore Marsh, John Morrison, Samuel Minard, Andrew Morrison, Adam S. Miller, Theodore J. Murray, Thomas E. Raplee, Charles F. Rentz, Ira H. Robinson, Charles F. Ross, Charles Shick, Lyman A. Stoll, Peter G. Swarts, Charles M. Swarthout, James M. Smith, Thomas J. Strait, Squire V. Straway, Mason Spink, Samuel R. Tennant, George R. Tulbs, James Tuttle, John H. Tymerson, Nelson E. Woodrub, James M. Witter, George M. Winans. Musicians, Stephen K. Hallock, Edward A. Tennant.

*Company F.*—Harvey R. Gardner, captain; Melvin D. Wilson, first lieutenant; Aaron J. Cook, second lieutenant; William S. Vorce, orderly; Nathaniel H. Green, first sergeant; Frank C. Fairchild, second sergeant; William H. Kelsey, third sergeant; Deroy J. Harkness, fourth sergeant; Robert Mills, John Earl, William S. Huie, Charles W. Peters, William N. Reddout, James M. Gates, Charles G. Van Ness, David Criss, corporals; Philip A. Walthein, jr., and Henry A. Sayre, musicians; Ezra Prouty, wagoner. Privates: James G. Ansley, George A. Ansley, Jonas Austin, George Broadbooks, Lansford O. Babbit, John W. Barnes, Hiram H. Barnes, John H. Benedict, George W. Benedict, Lewis R. Carvey, Owen Conway, John Conway, Albert W. Clark, William H. Cole, John J. Conley, William A. Carr, John S. Caton, William H. Crocker, Daniel Davis, Cludius Farr, George W. Fisher, Joseph C. Foster, George W. Ford, Jacob W. Fountain, William J. Fountain, William H. Francisco, John C. Fox, Francis Farr, Frederick Green, Benjamin Gleason, Lyman Gray, William Ginder, Nathan A. Goff, Lyman D. Green, Myron F. Hawley, William T. Hawley, John Headley, George W. Hall, Jerome S. Johnson, Jacob Korb, John J. Lawton, Alanson E. Lyon, William Lomereaux, Wilber Loomis, Daniel McGinniss, William M. Monagle, Ashley McDonald, George N. Miller, Lawrence McCumber, Willis Nicholson, Martin W. Parsons, Ezra P. Prichard, George H. Parsons, John Pierce, Jacob H. Radley, Josiah Reed, Barney C. Ross, Albert I. Sharp, Charles W. Stark, Theodore M. Stearns, Samuel Sailsbury, Joseph Sprague, John Slater, Loyal C. Twitchell, Manlius L. Taylor, Franklin Thompson, Norman Taylor, Jonathan G. Twitchell, Robert Underhill, Abraham R. Voorhees, William A. Wilson, William H. Wolvin, Levi Waters, Emory N. Wilson, George Wright, Isaac Wilkins, Thomas F. Wells, Charles E. Welles, Abram Youngs, jr.

*Company I.*—Martin S. Hicks, captain; Morgan D. Tracy, 2d, first lieutenant; John Cooley, second lieutenant; Edward Cole, orderly. Privates: George B. Alvord, Leonard M. Bohall, Robert Brown, Lucius B. Bennett, Walter W. Becker, Franklin Becker, Isaac D. Blood, Martin Butler, Isaac Benson, William B. Blouin, Stephen Coon, Lorenzo Capell, Lawrence Cooney, jr., Peter J. Conklin, Clark Castner, Ward Campbell, John Carr, James B. Crouch, Albert E. Dean, William A. Dunning, Patrick Duffy, Henry M. Dunbar, Jourdan Davis, William H. Fries, Peter Finger, Oliver M. Finger, William D. Frey, Edward L. Granger, George S. Gardner, James German, Abraham Houghtailing, Isaac Hounsond, Sidney House, William Huber, Benjamin F. Hood, Robert Holmes, jr., George Hillier, Luther S. Hayes, John J. Jackson, Caleb G. Jackson, Richard M. Jones, John Keating, Stephen H. Kitch, Dennis Lewis, Simeon Lackey, Damon Lay, Oliver F. Long, Charles C. Miller, William Matthews, Luther S. Meeker, Abraham

Miller, Lewis B. Moon, Seeley E. Palmatier, John D. Poole, Lorenzo W. Pettit, Oliver Preestler, Andrew Phelps, Willie E. Pierce, John L. Potter, Otis B. Ryall, George Robertson, Aaron D. Robertson, J. Harvey Randall, Jarvis W. Randall, Lewis B. Randall, Charles H. Reno, George Scofield, Gideon C. Spink, Isaac Spink, Luther Sisson, Alonzo F. Spears, Samuel Strong, David Sands, Philip L. Shaw, Daniel T. Shaw, Elizer B. Tears, Augustus Whitaker, David P. Wilcox, William Wright, Charles E. Willis, Charles W. Wheeler, Lemuel Wheat, Alva H. Wheat, William Welcher, John C. Youngs.

*Company M, later Company C of the Forty-fourth Regiment.*—Bennett Munger, captain; Elzer B. James, first lieutenant; Charles Kelly, second lieutenant; O. L. Munger, first sergeant; R. G. Kinner, George E. Henderson, Samuel J. Powell, and John O'Neil, sergeants; Harvey Ackley, Fred D. Hills, Robert F. Shipley, Charles Pelton, Matt Fitzpatrick, George W. Hobart, James Barron, and Elnathan Mead, corporals; John T. Johnson and Sylvanus Eaton, musicians; James Powell, wagoner. Privates: William Adams, Edgar Adams, D. C. Bassett, Samuel Covell, Philo H. Conklin, A. J. Cole, William Criscadon, Thomas Donnelly, Stephen T. Dye, John Devlin, Cyrus H. Davis, James Dansenburgh, William Elwell, George W. Francisco, Joseph H. Fletcher, Thomas Frunnman, Marion F. Graham, Emory C. Green, Josiah H. Gardner, Francis M. Grinold, Andrew A. Gidding, John K. Giddings, Peter Haines, Moses F. Hardy, William A. Herrick, Norman Harrington, Harrington Houghton, Peter H. Hibbard, Andrew J. Horton, George R. Hunter, James Kneeskern, J. H. Mandeville, Fred Mitchell, John McLaughlin, Elisha Moon, John McGough, John McBride, Richard McElligott, David O. Mapes, Philip Morse, William N. Norris, Lucius L. Osgood, William O'Neil, Richard C. Phillip, Alexander Perry, Clark Reynolds, George C. Raymond, Peter J. Strail, Reuben Sisson, Thomas R. Southerby, Hiram M. Squire, George W. Snyder, Albert Sturdevant, Jacob Stroup, Noah Shultz, William W. Smith, Myron Smith, Jacob Traber, C. W. Taylor, Patrick Taben, George W. Wing, Orrin E. Watkins, Albert W. West, Jerome Wheaton, Martin R. Westcott, Alden D. Whitney.

#### ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-NINTH REGIMENT N. Y. V.

Among the many regiments which during the war were furnished by the Empire State the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth New York Volunteers is entitled to prominence for the bravery and the patriotism that this command in several engagements displayed. The ten companies of infantry composing the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth were raised in the following places: Company A in Horseheads; Company B in Elmira; Company C in Hornellsville; Company D in Dunkirk; Company E in Buffalo; Company F in Penn Yan; Company G in Buffalo; Company H in Elmira; Company I in Newfield; and Company K in Binghamton. The following were the field and staff officers of the regiment at the time of its organization on the 5th of

April, 1864: Colonel, William M. Gregg; lieutenant-colonel, Franklin B. Doty; major, J. Barnet Sloan; adjutant, George W. Cook; quartermaster, Nathaniel P. T. Finch; surgeon, Joseph W. Robinson; assistant-surgeon, William C. Bailey; chaplain, Edwin A. Taft.

The One Hundred and Seventy-ninth, having been organized, was sent into the field by companies from the place of rendezvous at Elmira. Companies A, B, and C went on in April, 1864, and arrived in Baltimore on the 29th of that month. Companies A and C proceeded *via* New York city and Company B by the Northern Central Railroad, the three companies meeting in Baltimore. From there they went to Washington and encamped on Arlington Heights, opposite the city. They were here joined about the first of May by Companies D and E. Lieut.-Col. Franklin B. Doty also at this time reached the camp and assumed command. From Arlington, about the last of May, they proceeded to White House Landing on the Pamunkey River, Va.

Company F, with Maj. J. Barnet Sloan, left Elmira on the 1st of June and joined the regiment at White House Landing. The One Hundred and Seventy-ninth remained here until June 10th, when it united with the Army of the Potomac at Cold Harbor while the battle of that name was going on. The regiment was attached to the First Brigade, Colonel Pierre of the First Division, General Ledlie of the Ninth Corps, commanded by General Burnside. The position in front of Cold Harbor was evacuated as the army moved down the Peninsula, the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth Regiment being the last to leave the skirmish line. The James River was crossed at Wilson's Landing and a forced march was made to the front of Petersburg, where the regiment arrived on the 16th. The Ninth Corps the same evening supported the Second Corps as it advanced on the Confederate position. At 6 o'clock in the afternoon of the following day the Ninth Corps assailed the enemy's works. In this assault the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth lost half its number in killed, wounded, and missing. Maj. J. Barnet Sloan, of Yates County, while bravely leading his regiment in the charge, received a mortal wound. Capt. Daniel Blatchford of Company E was also killed and Lieut.-Col. Franklin B. Doty, Captains Robert T. Stewart, of Company B, and William Bird, jr., of Company D, were wounded. Capt. John Barton of Company C was pro-



moted to be major July 14th in the place of Major Sloan, who died of his wound on the 18th of June.

It will be proper to here give some account of the young and gallant officer last named, who fell while in the service of his country. John Barnet Sloan was born in Penn Yan, January 17, 1839. In 1861, while a resident of New York city, he enlisted for two years in the Thirty-first Regiment N. Y. V., with the rank of first lieutenant. When the Thirty-first was ordered from an island in the harbor of New York to proceed to Washington some violent characters connected with this regiment refused to go, and it was only by the energy of Lieutenant Sloan and considerable coercion that a mutiny was prevented while they were passing through the city of New York. By this simple occurrence was awakened in the minds of these desperadoes the most deadly hatred and revenge. Soon after they arrived in Washington one of them made a furious assault on the lieutenant. He defended himself and thrust his sword through the body of the ruffian, who died instantly. The companions of the soldier thus justly killed were more than ever incensed, and two or three days later another of the insurgents rushed with musket and bayonet at Lieutenant Sloan, who, drawing a revolver, shot him dead. The lieutenant immediately surrendered himself and asked for an investigation. A court-martial was appointed and after a patient hearing of three days acquitted him from all blame. General McClellan, to whom the verdict of the court had been submitted for approval, asked "to see the young lieutenant who had been tried." When Lieutenant Sloan presented himself General McClellan remarked, "Lieutenant, you are acquitted; you were born to be a soldier. I see that you have but one bar upon your shoulder; you are worthy to wear two." The lieutenant shortly afterward received by order of the general a captain's commission. His comrades in the company in which he first enlisted, on learning that he was about to be assigned to the command of another company, petitioned that he might remain, and he became their captain. Shortly after the siege of Yorktown Captain Sloan's company with others was sent out to reconnoiter and became entirely surrounded by the enemy. After making a detour of about ten miles, and being all this while in the most imminent danger, Captain Sloan with a number of his men succeeded in reaching

the Federal lines, but while approaching they were mistaken for Confederates and a shell, which fortunately failed to explode, fell in their midst. At the battle of Gaines's Mill Captain Sloan engaged in single combat with a Confederate cavalryman, whom he shot through the head, but not until the trooper had severely wounded him in the foot. Although wounded he fought to the close of that day's conflict and during the next two days in the battles of Savage Station and of Fair Oaks. His foot had now become swollen to such an extent that he could not walk. Our forces were in full retreat, and Captain Sloan was following after as he best could on one foot, supporting himself by a stout stick cut from the White Oak Swamp. The Confederates were in plain view and he would have been taken prisoner had not the lieutenant-colonel noticed the peril he was in and sent his own horse with directions to mount and repair to the hospital. Here Captain Sloan's wound first received medical attention. He was then furloughed and coming North was appointed a recruiting officer, and for several months acted in that capacity. He afterward returned to his regiment and was at the storming of the heights of Fredericksburg, where he was again wounded, this time by a minie-ball in the leg. The Thirty-first Regiment was mustered out in May, 1863, and Captain Sloan, for meritorious services on the field of battle, received a commission as major, bearing date and back pay from the previous month of January. Major Sloan, having re-enlisted, left Elmira on June 1, 1864, with Company F of his regiment, the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth. After his departure for the front a large number of the prominent citizens of Yates County, wishing to express their high appreciation of Major Sloan's military and soldierly qualities, assembled on June 4th in front of the Benham House in Penn Yan to witness the presentation of a beautiful sword, pistols, and belt which had been contributed by them as a testimonial of the esteem and respect which they held toward the young and brave major. Hon. Darius A. Ogden made the presentation speech, and in behalf of Major Sloan, who was then absent in the field of duty, John D. Wolcott, esq., the district attorney of Yates County, responded and passed the beautiful implements of war into the hands of John Sloan, esq., who was to forward them to his son. The following is the inscription on the sword:

"Presented to Major John Barnet Sloan, June 4, 1864, as a testimonial of their appreciation of services rendered in defence of our imperrilled country, and his energy in raising the 179th Regt. N. Y. S. V., by

"Hon. D. A. Ogden,	Col. H. C. Robbins,	S. C. Cleveland,
Wm. Watts,	F. Holmes,	C. Hewins,
J. S. Jillett,	N. R. Long,	L. O. Dunning,
Wm. T. Remer,	Geo. H. Lapham,	F. E. Smith,
		And others.

"GEN. A. F. WHITAKER, Chairman."

Major Sloan received the published accounts of this meeting, but before he received the beautiful and appropriate gifts themselves he fell in battle, June 17th, as before stated. His remains were brought to Penn Yan and there interred with due honors, the Rev. Frederick Starr, jr., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, preaching the funeral discourse. The post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Penn Yan was named in honor of Major Sloan on its organization in 1869. He was married September 24, 1860, to Miss Mary A. Bradley, a sister of Lieut. David A. Bradley, of Company F, of the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth Regiment. Their children are Mary Barnet, the wife of Frank E. Wright, of Lewiston, Fergus County, Mont., and Martha E., the wife of the Hon. John D. Waite, of Utica, Fergus County, Mont.

Company G joined the command July 29, 1864. The explosion of the mine under a portion of the Confederate entrenchments occurred the next morning. An assault was then made by the Ninth Corps, with the First Division taking the lead, and the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth lost in killed Major Barton, Capt. Allen T. Farwell of Company F, Capt. James H. Day of Company G, and wounded Lieut. B. L. Sexton of Company D. Fifty enlisted men belonging to the regiment were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners. Private John H. Carley of Company F was among the killed. The One Hundred and Seventy-ninth did constant fighting in the trenches until the 19th of August. During the whole time the men were exposed to the most hair-breadth escapes and harrassing dangers, but the regiment escaped with only a few wounded. On the above date it moved round to the Weldon Railroad, which had been captured by the Fifth Corps, and which would have been lost again had it not been for the timely support of the Ninth Corps. The two corps, now united, attacked the Confederates and

forced them to retreat a considerable distance. In this advance the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth Regiment had only three officers and fifty-six men fit for duty, so greatly had the officers and men been worn down by their duties in the trenches. The loss in the above engagement was small. On August 27th Albert A. Terrill, captain of Company A, was made major in place of Major Barton killed.

Lieutenant-Colonel Doty, who had been wounded and absent in consequence for sixty days, rejoined his command August 23d. Companies H, I, and K reached the regiment at Park's Station in September. On the 30th of that month the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth took part in the engagement at Poplar Springs Church, in which Lieut. James Booker, of Company K, acting adjutant, was mortally wounded. The next engagement, in which the losses were very slight, occurred October 27th at Hatcher's Run. After this the regiment was generally in the trenches until April, 1865, occasionally changing positions from Fort Welsh to Fort Davis. The One Hundred and Seventy-ninth Regiment having now reached its maximum number Col. William M. Gregg, about the 1st of October, 1864, was mustered in and took command.

During the first part of December, at the time of the celebrated raid of the Fifth Corps to the Notaway River, the Second Division to which the regiment was attached was sent out in pursuit and to give support if required. It performed a forced march of twenty miles and back within twenty-four hours. On the night of April 1, 1865, the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth Regiment alone, by a splendid flank movement, assaulted the whole picket line on its brigade front, capturing about four times its number with only slight losses, and held its position until morning. It then took position on the front line for a general assault on the enemy's works, which were subsequently taken with an overwhelming victory that completely broke up the Confederate lines of fortifications. Colonel Gregg in this assault received a scalp wound from the fragment of a shell, which rendered him senseless for some time, and disabled him for one week from commanding. The lamented Lieutenant-Colonel Doty fell shot through the lungs and survived only two days. As an officer, a courteous gentleman, a brave soldier, among the bravest of the brave, he had few equals. Captains Albert A. Pierson of Company D and Giles H. Holden of Company F,



and Lieutenants Samuel G. H. Musgrove of Company H and Stephen Compton of Company A, were wounded, Captain Pierson severely through the left leg and the rest slightly.

The One Hundred and Seventy-ninth participated in the pursuit of Lee as far as Burkesville and after his surrender it returned to City Point, from which place it went by transport to Alexandria and near there encamped. On the 23d of May the regiment took part along with the rest of the ever renowned Army of the Potomac in the grand review at Washington. No words can adequately describe the grandeur of this parade. Over 200,000 veterans—the heroes of many a fierce battle—marched in an apparently endless stream up Pennsylvania avenue and past the Presidential mansion, while the air was filled with strains of music and the acclamations of innumerable spectators, the whole forming a scene of unparalleled splendor, of which the participants still speak with enthusiasm. General Grant expressed it as “a sight varied and grand,” but it was more so; it was a sight but once seen in a life-time, and in one respect a magnificent exhibition of the tremendous power of our arms.

“Yet sublime as was this spectacle,” says the celebrated historian, J. T. Headley, “it sunk into insignificance before the grandeur of the one presented a few days after, when this army, strong enough to conquer a hemisphere, melted suddenly away into the mass of the people and was seen no more. Its deeds of renown had filled the civilized world and European statesmen looked on and wondered what disposition could be made of it, and where it would choose to go or what it would do. It was one of the grandest armies that ever bore on its bayonet points the destinies of a king or a nation—a consolidation and embodiment of power seldom witnessed; and yet, while the gaze of the world was fixed upon it, it disappeared like a vision, and when one looked for it he saw only peaceful citizens engaged in their usual occupations. The major-general, whose martial achievements had been repeated in almost every language under the sun, was seen among his papers in his old law office, which he had left at the call of his country; the brave colonel, who had led many a gallant charge, was in his counting-house acting as though he had been absent only a few days on business; while the veterans of the rank and file, whose battle shout had rung over scores of bloody fields, could only be

found by name, as one bent over his saw and plane and another swung his scythe in the harvest-field or plied his humble toil along the streets. It was a marvelous sight, the grandest the world ever saw. It had been the people's war—the people had carried it on, and, having finished their own work, quietly laid aside the instruments with which they had accomplished it and again took up those of peaceful industry. Never did a government on earth exhibit such stability and assert its superiority over all other forms as did this republican government of ours in the way its armies disappeared when the struggle was over."

The One Hundred and Seventy-ninth Regiment was mustered out at its place of encampment near Alexandria on June 8, 1865, by special order of the War Department. Going by way of Washington the regiment proceeded to Elmira, which it reached on Sunday morning the 11th. It was met at the depot by prominent citizens and the committee of arrangements, and escorted to the William Street Hospital building, where a warm breakfast was served to the members of the command. After breakfast the veterans marched down toward the foot of Church street and encamped on a vacant lot on the south side near the stone-ware factory. Here they remained until the 22d and 23d of June, when they received final payment and discharge.

Inscribed on the banners of the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth are the names of noted battles in which the regiment took a most noble part, viz.: "Petersburg, June 17th and July 30, 1864; Weldon Railroad; Poplar Springs Church; Hatcher's Run; and Petersburg on April 1st and 2d, 1865." On account of the great bravery evinced in capturing the enemy's picket line and in the final assault before Petersburg Col. William M. Gregg was afterward promoted to brevet brigadier-general and Capt. Samuel G. H. Musgrove to brevet-major.

The following is the roster of the regimental and line officers at the time of the mustering out of the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth Regiment:

*Officers.*—Colonel, William M. Gregg; lieutenant-colonel, Albert A. Terrill; major, Giles H. Holden; adjutant, George W. Cook; quartermaster, Nathaniel P. T. Finch; surgeon, Joseph W. Robinson; assistant-surgeon, Phineas S. Rose; chaplain, Edwin A. Taft.

*Line Officers.*—Company A: Captain, George D. Carpenter; first lieutenant, James A. Farr; second lieutenant, Stephen Compton. Company B: Captain, Martin V. Doty; first lieutenant, Edward Lounsbury. Company C: Captain, Levi Force; second lieu-

tenant, Thomas C. Smith. Company D: Captain, Albert A. Pierson; first lieutenant, John T. Andrews, 2d; second lieutenant, Henry Mapes. Company E: Captain, Samuel G. H. Musgrove; first lieutenant, Charles Carr; second lieutenant, James Prevost. Company F: Captain, James Griswold; first lieutenant, David A. Bradley; second lieutenant, Charles F. Hager. Company G: Captain, Henry Messing; second lieutenant, James Lewis. Company H: First lieutenant, Fitz E. Calver, second lieutenant, Henry Spreese. Company I: Captain, Edwin C. Bowen; first lieutenant, Charles Blackmar; second lieutenant, Oscar Jennings. Company K: Captain, Moses M. Van Benschotten; first lieutenant, Robert Hooper; second lieutenant, William C. Foster.

### Muster-in roll of Company F of the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth Regiment :

*Company F*.—Allen T. Farwell, captain; David A. Bradley, first lieutenant; Giles H. Holden, second lieutenant. Privates: Joseph Brown, Eleazer Baldwin, jr., Albert Bennett, Amos J. Bonney, Daniel R. Bacon, Josiah C. Baker, Charles Baker, John Banks, John H. Carley, Orlando V. Crans, Julius F. Cotton, Francis M. Campfield, Festus Demorest, Tuthill Dense, Edward S. Dunn, John W. Durham, James Decker, Thomas Dannaby, John Day, John Felan, Karl Frederick, Richard Fitzgerald, Daniel Guinea, Abram O. Gray, George W. Green, Andrew Hurd, Samuel B. Hyatt, Martin Hope, George W. Heck, John Hall, Frederick Harris, James A. James, David Kennedy, John Kelly, Edwin Knapp, John Kennedy, Carmi Loveless, William B. Larzelere, Lewis R. Little, William Lounsbury, Charles Lounsbury, James B. Luce, Andrew McConnell, Michael McCarty, John Martin, John McCann, Varnum J. Northup, Ezra M. Northup, William L. Norton, Charles C. Owen, John Oakley, John Post, James Patterson, John B. Patrick, Ransom O. Remer, Daniel P. Rigby, Charles E. Releyea, George M. Releyea, John Riley, Timothy Shaw, Newton B. Spencer, Henry C. Scofield, David Sherman, Norton A. Sage, Aaron R. Sherman, William Stephens, Patrick Stapleton, Wilbert Simmons, Michael Shanahan, James Story, Robert Thompson, George Wilson, Robert P. Walker, Daniel Weldon, George Williams, Abel Webb, Martin Wilkin, George White, Frederick F. Winangle, George W. West.

### ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT N. Y. V.

*Company B*.—Privates: Judson C. Albright, Thomas V. Brown, Charles Donnelly, Wellington Graham, Charles W. Haverly, Edward F. Jones, Joseph R. Potter, Serel-low Travis, Samuel Van Dyke.

*Company C*.—Privates: William Burke, Charles Beeman, Rice Barker, John M. Bennett, Hiram Ellis, John Everett, Danford Ellsworth, Adelbert Genung, Charles F. Grenall, Theodore D. Gillett, Nelson Hunt, Matthew Kennedy, David Kennedy, Smith McLoud, William Mahan, Edward P. Porter, Niram B. Squires, Horace Stoddard, Michael Wallace.

*Company E*.—Privates: Zenas G. Bullock, Newton Colgrove, Ebenezer B. Clark, Andrew A. Granger, William F. Harkness, Henry Pitt, Charles H. Spencer.

*Company F*.—Privates: Albert Van Dusen, Norman Wyant.

*Company G.*—Privates: Percival A. Conklin, Cornelius Demorest, Charles S. Dailey, Alexander Eastman, William W. French, Mark Hazen, William W. Hoyt, William F. Kelsey, Uzel Marlett, Philip McGinnis, David S. Miller, Trumbull Magee, Philip Packard, Reuben Rockwell, Daniel Rockwell, James Soles, John H. Simmonds, John T. Smith, Ira M. Smith, Robert Shedden, Luther Smith, Joseph Scott, Elijah Scott, John Scott, Ezra Tyler, William Wolverton, Horace H. Watrous, George Wooden.

#### FIFTIETH REGIMENT NEW YORK ENGINEERS.

*Company A.*—James L. Robbins, second lieutenant; Francis M. Halloran, sergeant; Daniel M. Hulse, sergeant; Joseph Campbell, corporal; John H. Harrison, corporal. Privates: Mortimer Adams, James P. Ansley, George Beeman, Kingsbury M. Bennett, John Brown, John Burns, John A. Butler, Orrin A. Burrill, John Campbell, Rowland Champlain, Roswell S. Clark, Robert N. Coons, Theodore Criscadon, Hugh Criscadon, William C. Davenport, James Dunham, James H. Dunham, Thomas Evans, Daniel J. Fitzer, Abram Fredenburg, Sylvester Fredenburg, Charles G. Gottfried, Michael Halloran, Zachariah S. Helm, Witsall M. Henderson, James H. Kelly, James F. Lake, Edward Lewis, Philip Loder, Jesse Lott, Alonzo T. Lyon, James Mace, Nelson Madison, John W. McFarland, Stephen Matterson, Thomas Miller, James M. Miller, Edwin Miller, Asa C. Phelps, William Poyneer, John R. Robinson, Joel Tomer, Richard M. Turner, John Turner, Henry Turner, Cornelius Van Huysen, Joseph Watkins, R. Wesley Welch, Leander S. Whiteborn, Henry Williams, Joseph W. Worden, Charles Wright.

*Company E.*—Privates: John H. Brewer, Andrew H. Carr, Arnold Dawes, Hiram W. Lawhead.

*Company G.*—Melville D. Miller, private.

#### ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-FOURTH REGIMENT N. Y. V.

*Company D.*—Richard B. Mahar, captain; Charles Stark, first lieutenant; Theodore G. Ross, second lieutenant. Privates: Henry N. Ashby, Henry J. Ackley, George W. Austin, George S. Ackley, James A. Briggs, Hugh Bulger, George H. Beamish, Charles Britton, John F. Beebe, Abram Brown, Coradon H. Beebe, Eli Barrett, John W. Boothe, John Baker, Wolcott Cole, Lewis Clark, Lester Crandall, Edward Courtney, Edwin L. Corey, Thomas Creed, Jerome H. Carey, Edgar D. Carey, George Davis, Charles A. Darrow, Roderick Dingman, Dwight W. Dickinson, Timothy Driscoll, Leonard E. Dufur, George A. Durham, Lucas Enos, David H. Fitzwater, Elijah Fowler, Patrick Gill, Mordecai Goodwin, Moses R. Gage, William A. Gray, Mortimer Hotchkiss, Daniel Houghtailing, Lewis Halstead, Delos C. Hubbard, Joseph Ham, Thomas Harland, Thomas Hackett, John Homer, William H. Hand, George Hennery, John Hall, James Houghtailing, Hervey Jero, Lyman P. Johnson, Frank M. Lacy, Josiah B. Lyon, John Lenhart, Michael McAlpine, William Mitchell, John H. Parsons, Orrin W. Place, Whitfield H. Peck, George Peck, Wallace Polmanteer, John H. Ryall, Joseph Steele, James Steele, Albert W. Small, Philip Slater, Richard Sutfin, Edward Salisbury, Simeon Spink, Thomas Tunney, John Theis, Henry Tomyon, Smith Tupper, David O. Tears, Charles



G. Watkins, Cornelius Webber, John P. Williams, Charles Wright, Bertram A. Whitmore, Samuel C. Wales.

*Company B.*—Private, George W. Randall.

*Company C.*—Private, George B. Barden.

#### FIRST UNITED STATES SHARPSHOOTERS.

*Officers.*—Colonel, H. Berdan; adjutant, J. Smith Brown.

*Company B.*—William Elmendorf, second lieutenant; William Chidsey, orderly-sergeant. Privates: George Barber, Nelson Bennett, Charles Bogart, Robert Bogart, Ervin Chidsey, Harrison De Long, James Densmore, George Downing, Gideon Draper, Frank Elwin, Lewis Gage, John Gannon, Henry Gannon, David Gannon, George Griswold, Michael Hallon, Frank Kellogg, Lewis Ketchum, David Philbrook, John Philbrook, Nelson Rector, James Robinson, George Russell, William Stapleton, William Stokes, Benjamin F. Warner, James Warner.

#### EIGHTY-FIFTH REGIMENT N. Y. V.

*Company G.*—George W. Morgan, first lieutenant; Alonzo S. Miller, first sergeant; Charles H. Hayes, John H. Lafler, and Dewitt C. Farrington, sergeants; George Haines, John G. Watkins, and Joseph Tinney, corporals; Ebenezer Inscho, wagoner. Privates: Aaron Beard, Robert Briggs, George Barnes, Hiram Corey, Joseph S. Crouse, Alexander P. Campbell, Martin Davis, Franklin Daines, Ebenezer Finch, John W. Green, Augustus Gordon, D. Martin Inscho, Amos Jones, Hazard Jones, Samuel Lurch, Nelson Matthews, James Sherman, George S. Wells.

#### MISCELLANEOUS REGIMENTS.

*Company B, Third Regiment Artillery N. Y. V.*—Delos C. Hubbard, corporal. Privates: Lee Bookstaver, Warren Brenenstul, James H. Eckerson, William F. Edgett, Nelson Elliot, Michael Farrell, David Fingar, Harlow Fingar, James H. Greening, George J. Greening, Thomas Griswold, Aaron Griswold, Johnson Henryes, Albert Henryes, John Hughes, Patrick Lahan, E. M. Lester, John Light, Andrew J. Matthews, Darius Matthews, Edward Matthews, Vosburgh McLaughlin, George H. McLaughlin, Warren Miller, William H. Miller, John G. Phelps, John F. Robinson, James M. Smith, Albert Travis, Edward A. Travis, John Travis, Robert H. Wilson. *Company E.*—Private, Charles Hammond.

*Company G, One Hundred and Forty-fourth Regiment Artillery N. Y. V.*—Privates: Samuel Andrews, James E. Almy, George H. Blakesley, Dewitt C. Bassett, Levi Bassett, John A. Bailey, Lee Bookstaver, Robert Bell, George W. Carr, Daniel Daily, George Davis, James A. Dayton, Llewellyn Dunn, George B. Dunn, William Fowler, George N. Ford, Adelbert Haight, Michael Holland, John Hunter, Mason Lang, Amos McLaughlin, Michael Mahar, John M. Mahar, Matthew Maddox, C. L. Paris, Patrick Quinan, Benjamin Rhodes, George Reynolds, George Sprague, Charles Shuter, Eugene L. Smith, Martin Schiem, Seymour H. Shultz, Jeremiah Sprague, Lee Thomas, Oliver Wyman, Hazard Wheeler.

*Company A, Seventy-sixth Regiment N. Y. V.*—Hershel W. Pierce, second lieutenant. Privates: George A. Allen, Theodore Beach, Marvin Bejington, William Condon, Lyman Culver, Benjamin F. Carpenter, Martin P. Campbell, Samuel Higgins, Alonzo Harris, Albert L. Hilton, Jesse Houghtailing, Charles E. Stamp.

*Company H, One Hundred and Second Regiment N. Y. V.*—Peter K. Deyo, first lieutenant; Aaron C. Frost, first sergeant; Charles L. Nichols, second sergeant. Privates: Morris Bartlett, Edward Beardsley, James J. Fox, Larimore Graham, Anson Matthews, James Sander, Charles H. Wheeler.

*Company I, Fifteenth Engineers.*—Privates: Barrett A. Boyd, John L. Bronson, Harlan P. Bush, Joseph E. Lewis, Asa Phelps, James Spencer, Albert T. Wilson. *Company K.*—Privates: Able Briggs, J. M. Connolly, Joseph Eaves, S. B. Parshall, James Warner.

*Company L, Fourteenth Regiment Artillery N. Y. V.*—Privates: Nathaniel S. Briggs, Stanford Bigelow, Dewitt C. Bell, Patrick Barrett, Henry O. Briggs, Isaiah Brockway, John S. Constantin, John Coovert, Henry Carey, Charles E. Downing, Andrew Dunn, John B. Dunn, George Hunter, Thomas Hunter, George A. Jamison, Darwin King, John Killcullen, Robert B. Lewis, George McDonald, George D. Moore, John Moxcey, jr., Melvin Perry, John C. St. John, Gideon C. Skink, William D. Semans, Samuel O. Wheaton, John W. Woodruff, Joseph Woolf. *Company M.*—George Brennan, first lieutenant.

*Company G, Sixteenth Artillery N. Y. V.*—Morris F. Sheppard, captain.

*Company A, Twenty-second Cavalry N. Y. V.*—Henry P. Starr, second lieutenant; Amos E. Wheeler, corporal. Privates: George Barrett, Frederick Eaves, Joseph Ham, Miles B. Hodge, Truman Slater, Miles A. Terrill.

*Company F, Twenty-third Regiment N. Y. V.*—Privates: William H. Dunn, Charles Lewis, Oscar Nelson.

*Company I, Thirty-fourth Regiment N. Y. V.*—John Finegan, sergeant; Samuel C. Benham, sergeant. Privates: Harrison Clark, Orlando M. Crofoot, David Finegan, George Leddick, James E. Northup, James A. McCarrick, Frederick B. St. John, Jacob Speers.

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## CHAPTER XII.

### THE BENCH AND BAR OF YATES COUNTY.

THE sentiment has been commonly expressed that the judicial system of the State of New York is largely copied or derived from the common law of England and slightly from the civil law of the Continent. This is true in many respects, and resemblances may be traced therein. There are certain changeless principles running throughout the laws of every nation and people from Moses to Victoria. But these

principles are few and often obscured by the varying manifestations given to them by different law-makers; and although a close study of the laws and judicial practice in this State will disclose the possession of some principles in common with English and Continental laws, yet the same study will reveal the fact that in spirit and form the judicial system of the State of New York is an original growth and radically differs from the old system of Europe. The difference in the germinal idea which underlies and gives character to the systems is strikingly manifested in the simple act of entitling a criminal writ. In this State it is *The People versus the Criminal*; in England it is *Rex versus The Criminal*. In the genius of the one the requirement is an independent judiciary responsible directly to the people only; in the other it is a court subservient to the king. But this great idea of the sovereignty of the people, even over the laws, has had a slow, conservative, yet progressive and systematic unfolding of the germ into organism. In the early history of the State the governor was in effect the maker, interpreter, and enforcer of the laws. He could veto any enactment of the legislature. He was the chief judge of the court of final resort and those who sat in council with him were generally his obedient followers. The execution of the English and Colonial statutes rested with him as did the exercise of the royal authority and wishes in the colony.

It was not until the first constitution in 1777 that the governor ceased to contend for these prerogatives and to act as though the only functions of the courts and councillors were to do his bidding as servants and helpers, and the legislature to aid in preparing such laws as he approved. By that constitution he was entirely stripped of the judicial power which he possessed under the Colonial rule, and such power was vested in the lieutenant-governor and Senate, the chancellor and justices of the Supreme Court, the former to be elected by the people and the latter appointed by the Council. But even this restriction was soon felt to be incompatible. With the spirit of the Commonwealth and by the constitution of 1846 the last connection between the purely political and judicial parts of the State government was abolished, and with it disappeared the last remaining relic of the Colonial period. From this time on the judiciary became more directly representative of the people in the election. The development of the idea of the responsibility of the

courts to the people, from the time when all their members were at the beck and nod of one well nigh irresponsible master to the time when all judges, even of the court of final resort, are voted for directly by the people, has been remarkable. Yet through all this change the idea of one ultimate tribunal from whose decision there can be no appeal has prevailed.

Let us look at the present arrangement and power of the courts of the State and then at the elements from which they have grown. The whole scheme is involved in the idea of first a trial before a magistrate and jury, arbiters respectively of law and fact, and then a review by a higher tribunal of the facts and law, and ultimately of the law by a court of last resort. To accomplish the purpose of this scheme there have been devised and established, first, the present Court of Appeals, the ultimate tribunal of the State, perfected in its present form by the conventions of 1867 and 1868 and ratified by the people in 1866, and taking the place of the old court for the trial of impeachments and the correction of errors to the extent of correcting errors of law. As first organized under the constitution of 1846 the Court of Appeals was composed of eight judges, four elected by the people and the remainder chosen from the justices of the Supreme Court and having the shortest time to serve. The chief judge was he who was elected by the people and had the shortest time to serve. As re-organized in 1869 and now existing the court consists of a chief judge and six associate judges, who hold office for the term of fourteen years from the first day of January after their election. Under this arrangement the first judges were chosen at a special election held in April, 1870. This court has power to correct or reverse the decisions of all inferior courts when properly before it for review. Five judges form a quorum and four must concur to render judgment. Four not concurring after two re-hearings the judgment of the court below must stand affirmed. The legislature has provided how and when the proceedings and decisions of inferior tribunals may be reviewed in the Court of Appeals, and may in its discretion alter and amend the same. The judges are prohibited from holding any other office or place of public trust, or exercising any power of appointment to such place, from practicing as attorney, or acting as referee. They are removable by concurrent resolution of both Houses



of the legislature upon a two-thirds vote of each House. Judges of the Court of Appeals and of the Supreme Court can hold office only till seventy years of age.

Second to the Court of Appeals in rank and jurisdiction stands the Supreme Court, which, as it now exists, is made up of many and widely different elements. It was originally created by legislative enactment May 6, 1691, and finally by ordinance of the Governor and Council, May 15, 1699, and empowered to try all issues, civil, criminal, or mixed, to the same extent as the English Courts of King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer, except in the exercise of equity powers. It had jurisdiction in actions involving \$100 or upwards, and to reverse and correct the decisions of inferior courts. An appeal lay from it to the Governor and Council. The judges annually made a circuit of the counties under a commission issued by the governor, and giving them *nisi prius*,oyer and terminer, and jail delivering powers. At first there were five judges. The court was re-organized by the constitution of 1777, under which the judges were to be named by the Council of Appointment and the term of their office was limited to the age of sixty years. All proceedings were directed to be entitled in the name of the people instead of that of the king. In 1786 a law was passed requiring the court to try all causes in the county where they arose, unless they should be ordered to be tried at the bar of the court. The constitution of 1821 made many and important changes in the character and methods of the court. The judges were reduced to three and appointed by the governor, with the consent of the Senate, to hold during good behavior or until sixty years of age. They could be removed upon a two thirds vote of the Assembly and a majority of the Senate. The judges were exempt from military duty, could hold no other office, could receive no fees, could not practice as attorney or counselor, and could not sit in any case where they were interested or take part in the review of a case passed upon by them in any other court. Four times a year the full court sat in review of their decisions upon questions of law.

By the constitution of 1846 the Supreme Court as it then existed was abolished, and a new court of the same name and having general jurisdiction in law and equity was established. This court was divided into

General terms, Circuits, Special terms, and Oyer and Terminer. Its members were composed of thirty-three judges, to be elected by the people, and to reside five in the first and four in each of the seven other judicial districts into which the State was divided. By the judiciary act of 1847 General terms were to be held in each county in the State having over 40,000 inhabitants at least once in each year and in other counties at least once in two years, and at least two Special terms and two Circuit Courts were to be held yearly in each county except Hamilton. Since 1882 the Oyer and Terminer consists of a single justice of the Supreme Court. By an act of the legislature adopted in 1848, and entitled the Code of Procedure, all distinctions between actions at law and suits in equity were abolished so far as the matter of commencing and conducting is concerned, and one uniform method of practice in all actions was provided. Under this act appeals lay to the General term of the Supreme Court from judgments rendered in Justice, Mayor's, or Recorder's and County Courts, and from orders and decisions of a justice at Supreme term or Circuit, and from judgments rendered at any trial term of the Supreme Court.

In 1869 the judiciary article of the constitution of 1846 was amended, but continued the existing Supreme Court with the same jurisdiction. By this amendment it was provided that the legislature should, from time to time and not more often than once in five years, provide for the organization of General terms, consisting of a presiding justice and not more than three associates. It also directed the holding of General terms in each of the districts. The justices were to be elected by the voters of their respective districts.

By chapter 408 of the laws of 1870 the then organization of the General terms was abrogated and the State divided into four departments, and provisions made for holding the General terms in each. By the same act the governor was directed to designate from among the justices of the Supreme Court a presiding justice and two associates to constitute a General term in each department. The presiding justice was to hold his place during his official term and the associates for five years. The justices of each department once in two years were to prepare appointments of Circuits, Oyer and Terminer, and Special terms and designate the justices to hold each. In June, 1877, the legislature enacted the

Code of Civil Procedure to take the place of the code of 1848. By this act many minor changes in the practice of the court were made, among them a provision that every two years the justices of the General terms and the chief judges of the Superior city courts should meet and revise and establish general rules of practice for all the courts of record in the State except the Court of Appeals.

By an amendment to the constitution, adopted in 1879, one additional justice was provided for in the second district. Under the authority of another amendment, adopted in 1882, the legislature, by the laws of 1883, divided the State into five judicial departments, and provided for the election of twelve additional justices to hold office from the first Monday in June, 1884, and for a General term in each department.

These are, in brief, the changes through which the Supreme Court of the State of New York has passed in its growth from the prerogative of an irresponsible governor to one of the most independent and enlightened instrumentalities for the protection and attainment of the rights of its citizens of which any State or nation, ancient or modern, can rightfully boast. So well is this fact understood by the people that by far the greater amount of business which might be done in inferior courts at less expense is actually taken to this court for settlement.

Next in inferiority of rank and jurisdiction to the Supreme Court are the County Courts held in and for each county in the State at such times and places as its judges may direct. This court had its origin in the English Court of Sessions and, like it, at first had criminal jurisdiction only. By an act passed in 1683 a Court of Sessions having power to try all causes, civil and criminal, by a jury was directed to be held by three justices of the peace, in each of the counties of the province twice a year, with an additional term in Albany and two in New York. By the act of 1691 and the decree of 1699, referred to in connection with the Supreme Court, all civil jurisdiction was taken away from this court and conferred upon the Court of Common Pleas. Under the authority of the constitution of 1846 the County Courts have from time to time been given jurisdiction in actions of *assumpsit*, debt, and covenant, in sums not exceeding \$2,000; in replevin not exceeding \$1,000; and in actions for trespass and personal injury not to exceed \$500. These courts have also been clothed with equity powers to foreclose mort-

gages; sell infants' real estate; to partition lands; to admeasure dower; and to care for the persons and estates of lunatics and habitual drunkards. The judiciary act of 1869 continued the existing jurisdiction of County Courts, and conferred upon them original jurisdiction in all actions in which the defendant lived within the county and damages claimed did not exceed \$1,000. Like the Supreme Court the County Court has now its civil and its criminal sides. In criminal matters the county judge is assisted by two justices of sessions, elected by the people from among justices of the peace in the county. It is in the criminal side of this court, known as the Sessions, that all the minor criminal offenses are disposed of. All indictments by the grand jury, except for murder or some very serious felony, are sent to it for trial from the Oyer and Terminer. By the codes of 1848 and 1877 the methods, procedure, and practice, and the jurisdiction and control of actions arising within the county or against citizens of the county, were made to conform as nearly as possible to the practice and jurisdiction in the Supreme Court. This was done with the evident design of attracting litigation into these courts and thus relieving the Supreme Court. But in this purpose there has been a failure, litigants much preferring the shield and assistance of the broader powers of the Supreme Court. By the judiciary act the term of office of county judge was extended from four to six years. Under the codes he can perform some of the duties of a justice of the Supreme Court. The County Court has appellate jurisdiction over actions arising in the Justices' Courts and Courts of Special Sessions.

Surrogate Courts, one of which exists in each county of the State, are now Courts of Record, having a seal, and their especial jurisdiction is the settlement and care of estates of persons, who have died either with or without a will, and of infants. The derivation of the powers and practice of the Surrogate Courts in this State is from the Ecclesiastical Court of England through a part of the Colonial Council, which existed during the rule of the Dutch and exercised its authority in accordance with the Dutch Roman law and the custom of Amsterdam, the Court of Burgomasters and Schepens, the Court of Orphan Masters, the Mayor's Court, the Prerogative Court, and the Court of Probates. The settlement of estates and the guardianship of orphans, which was at first vested in the director-general and the Council of New Netherlands, was



transferred to the Burgomasters in 1653 and soon after was transferred to the Orphan Masters. Under the first constitution surrogates were chosen by the Council of Appointment, while under the second constitution they were appointed by the governor with the consent of the Senate. The constitution of 1846 abrogated the office of surrogate in all counties having less than 4,000 population and conferred its duties upon the county judge. By the Code of Civil Procedure surrogates were invested with all necessary powers to carry out the equitable and incidental requirements of their office—a much needed authority in view of the rule that the Surrogate's Court was one of limited jurisdiction and the surrogate had no powers except those expressly given by statute. In its present form and sitting weekly Surrogates' Courts afford a cheap and expeditious medium for the care of estates and guardianship of infants.

The only remaining courts which are common to the whole State are the Special Sessions, held by justices of the peace for the trial of minor criminal offences, and Justice Courts with limited civil jurisdiction. Prior to the amendment to the constitution of 1821, adopted in 1826, justices were appointed; since that time they have been elected by the people. The office and duties are descended from the English courts of the same name, but are much less important, and under the laws of this State are purely the creation of the statute. The office of justice is of very little importance in the administration of law, and with the loss of much of its old-time power has lost all of its former dignity.

This brief survey of the courts of New York, which omits only those that are local in character, gives some idea of the machinery provided for the use of the members of the bench and bar at the time of the erection of Yates County in 1823.

#### RECOLLECTIONS OF THE OLD YATES COUNTY BAR.

William M. Oliver came to Penn Yan at an early date from Cherry Valley, Otsego County. He was then a young man, but by his careful, prudent, and conservative counsels he very soon became one of if not the leading citizen of this village. His voice and influence were potentially felt in all public enterprises. He was generous and liberal. His benefactions were freely bestowed upon those in need, and it may be

truthfully said that no poor man ever applied to him for assistance in vain. For many years he shaped the politics of this county, and he was always esteemed the most sagacious politician in the county, and in the State he was consulted by the leading members of his party. In 1823, the year this county was organized, he was appointed the first judge of the old Court of Common Pleas, which office he held until 1828. He was again appointed to the same office in 1838 and continued to hold the same until January, 1844. In the fall of 1836 he was elected State senator under the constitution of 1821, which office he held one term—four years. The Senate at that time was composed of able lawyers. This was quite necessary then, as the Senate was a branch of the old Court for the Correction of Errors. Many of his opinions in cases decided in that court appear in the reports and compare favorably with the opinions written by other senators and judges composing that court. It is apparent that he secured and had the confidence of his fellow senators, for in 1830 there was a vacancy in the office of president of the Senate and he was elected to fill that office, and thereby became lieutenant-governor of the State. In this office he acquitted himself with credit to the satisfaction of his friends. He was subsequently appointed one of the clerks of the Supreme Court of this State. This office was very lucrative and then located in Geneva. But he did not change his residence. While holding that office he was elected president of the "Yates County Bank," the charter for which had then lately been granted by the State legislature. He held this office until its failure in 1857. He was elected to Congress in the fall of 1840 and held that office one term. He was an honored and useful member of that body, and though a new member he exhibited so much sagacity and wisdom in the direction of public affairs that his counsel and advice were sought on all public questions by his party friends. It was Judge Oliver's misfortune that he accepted the presidency of the bank and resigned that of clerk of the Supreme Court, for while one paid him largely the other in the end brought upon him financial ruin and great mental sorrow and distress, from which he never recovered. We think it may be fairly said, however, that the failure of the bank of which he was president had its origin in causes which did not involve crookedness or moral turpitude on the part of its president.

Henry Welles was born in Kinderhook, and at an early day his father with his family removed to the east bank of our lovely Lake Keuka, where he spent his boyhood days. He read law with that eminent lawyer, Vincent Mathews, at Bath, where he commenced his professional life. In about the year 1829 he removed from Bath to Penn Yan, where he lived until the time of his death in March, 1868. Judge Welles was a man of strict integrity and always commanded the respect of his fellow citizens. He always stood in the front rank of his profession and had a large practice. He never acquired distinction as an advocate, but always gave his cases a patient examination and thorough study, hence his success before the courts. His first office was that of district attorney of this county. Several years prior to his election as a justice of the Supreme Court, and in June, 1847, he was appointed and acted as one of the associate judges of the old Court of Common Pleas. Here he laid the foundation of that confidence which led to his selection and elevation as a justice of the Supreme Court. This latter office he held until his death. As an able, industrious, and conscientious judge none stood higher or was more highly esteemed. It was well and truly said of him by an honored member of the bar of this judicial district on the occasion of his death :

“ As a judge he was characterized by a sincere desire to do the right by a patient, painstaking industry, which was never satisfied short of an exhaustive examination of the subject under consideration, by a broad common sense, which his learning and experience had ripened into a comprehensive, judicial wisdom ; by a dignified courtesy, which was never provoked into petulance or irritability, and which never degenerated into unseemly facetiousness. As a man he was characterized by a simple ingenuousness, by fatherly kindness, by strict integrity, and by Christian courtesy.”

Roderick N. Morrison was among the lawyers in this county who at an early date deservedly obtained an eminent distinction. He was a man of broad culture, of commanding appearance, and an astute and successful lawyer. He built and until he removed from here resided in the residence of the late Abram Wagener and now occupied by Mrs. Ida Thompson Drake. He left Penn Yan in about the year 1833. Subsequently he went to California, where he achieved distinction.

Before Mr. Morrison left Evert Van Buren, then a young man, removed here from Kinderhook. Mr. Van Buren and Mr. Morrison at once became rivals ; that is, in every important case they were sure to be

pitted against each other. Van Buren was bright, witty, and wonderfully sarcastic. He possessed unusual ability as a speaker and his addresses to a jury were usually distinguished for eloquence and convincing power. He examined a witness with great adroitness, and if a witness attempted to prevaricate he broke down under the fire of this eminent examiner. While Mr. Van Buren was not a great lawyer as such, yet he was one of the ablest advocates, if not the ablest, who has ever practiced at the Yates County Bar. He removed from here to Chicago in 1857, where he achieved success and wealth.

James Taylor, about the time Mr. Morrison left, removed to Penn Yan from the town of Starkey, where he had previously practiced his profession. Mr. Taylor, while a resident of Starkey and in the year 1832, was appointed district attorney of the county and held the office for four years. He was a man of marked integrity, courteous and gentlemanly in his deportment, and had the confidence and respect, not only of his fellow members of the bar, but of citizens generally throughout the county. He was persuasive in argument, and by his great candor he became a strong man with a jury. He had a good practice and met with reasonable success. He was a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church in this village and his influence in the church was conservative and healthy. He removed to Kansas in 1857, whither some members of his family had already preceded him.

Justice S. Glover came to this village some few years prior to 1840, where he practiced his profession until he removed to Michigan. Mr. Glover had a good legal mind, but an uncontrollable temper, which really disqualified him in a great measure from general practice. He had great confidence in his own knowledge of the law and could not bear contradiction nor accept with patience an adverse decision of the court. His unfortunate temperament prevented that degree of success as a lawyer which he might otherwise have attained.

James L. Seeley practiced law at Dundee, where he died a number of years since. He was an honest man and an honorable practitioner. His word was accepted by his professional brethren and was deemed as sacred as his stipulation in writing. He scorned any quibbling or artifice. He was frank and open as the light of day. He had a good legal mind,—could readily observe distinctions in cases and reach the vital



point in a case. He was very careful and conservative and always sought to prevent litigation rather than promote it. He was not a good trial lawyer and seldom trusted himself to try an important case unassisted. His counsel and advice were sought by those who wished to be advised rightly and safely, and this was his strong point.

Delazon J. Sunderlin was not admitted to the bar until 1846. His love for the profession had its origin in the courts of the justices of the peace of his neighborhood, where he had a large practice and gained much notoriety for his great ingenuity and success in the trial of cases previous to his admission. After his admission to the bar in 1846 he at once entered upon a full practice in this and the adjoining counties of Steuben and Schuyler. He at the time of his admission was a successful farmer in the town of Barrington, where he continued to live until the time of his death, except a short interval spent in Penn Yan. Mr. Sunderlin was a stalwart man, capable of great physical endurance, which was often taxed to its utmost. He was a very successful trial lawyer. He never permitted a point to pass his observation and he was wonderfully fruitful in discovering the weak points of his adversary's case, and exercised great skill and ingenuity in presenting his own case in its most favorable light. He was always a hard man to meet and much more to beat, for when opposite counsel felt secure and confident of success it was not unlikely that Mr. Sunderlin would suggest new questions and new difficulties to be overcome. One thing may be truly said of Mr. Sunderlin: When beaten by the court he accepted the decision without a murmur. He was always courteous and gentlemanly, not only with the court, but the members of the bar also. He was liberal and honorable in his practice. In November, 1850, he was elected district attorney of the county and held the office one term. The duties of this office he discharged with ability and satisfaction to the people.

Benedict W. Franklin came to Penn Yan to practice law in or about 1836. He was born in Kinderhook and upon coming here he at once took rank with the best resident lawyers. He had a large clientage so long as he remained in practice. Mr. Franklin was a very industrious man; he worked upon his cases with great industry and with the utmost care—so much care did he bestow upon his cases before trial that fre-



*J. V. Van Alen*



quently when the Circuit was reached he was exhausted with solicitous overwork. He was a fair lawyer, but too doubtful of his own opinions to make himself self-reliant. In temper he was somewhat irascible, but still he did not allow his disposition of temperament to interfere with the management of his cases. He was the adviser of many of the moneyed men of this county. As he grew older he somewhat lost his interest in the practice of the law, especially in contested cases. Before his death he devoted the most of his time to the placing of money by way of loans upon bonds and mortgage, and at the time of his death was virtually out of practice. Mr. Franklin, though an impulsive man, enjoyed the confidence of all as an honest, upright, and truthful gentleman.

James V. Van Allen came to Penn Yan from Kinderhook sometime about the year 1844 or 1845. He was then a young man and had not previously entered upon the practice of the law. Soon after coming here he accepted a position in the law office of Mr. Franklin as a clerk, and subsequently became a partner of Mr. Franklin. He held the office of justice of the peace for the town of Milo for many years, and discharged the duties of that office with eminent ability and satisfaction. Mr. Van Allen was an office and not a trial lawyer. As an office lawyer he had no superior. He made the practice a study and successfully mastered its intricacies. As stated he was not a trial lawyer, and yet it does not follow that he was not a good lawyer. He possessed an analytical mind—quickly possessed himself of the vital points of a case, and he was a safe man to advise with. He was careful and conservative in his advice, and his opinion upon any legal question was deemed both valuable and reliable. His practice was quiet, but lucrative. He was very companionable and enjoyed the society of his friends. He died very suddenly and unexpectedly in the prime and vigor of his manhood.

A. V. Harpending finished his clerkship in the law office of Evert Van Buren, coming to Penn Yan from Dundee in the fall of 1840. He was admitted to the bar in the year 1844 and at once opened an office in Penn Yan. For about a year and a half after that William S. Briggs was his partner, though the latter had not then been admitted. Mr. Harpending was naturally a brilliant man. As a trial lawyer and be-



fore a jury he showed genius and skill and was reasonably successful in his efforts. He had a good paying practice. He was genial, witty, and eminently social, was greatly attached to his friends, and had a host of them. He was elected to the office of district attorney of this county in the fall of 1853 and held the same one term. He represented this county in the Assembly in 1857, and was senator from the district of which this county was then a part at the time of his death, which occurred at Albany in the spring of 1871. Mr. Harpending discharged the duties of district attorney with zeal and fearless integrity, and such was the sentiment and opinion of all who were within his sphere of knowledge. His untimely death, coming to him as it did while holding and exercising the functions of an honorable office, with a bright future before him, created a deep sensation at his home and cast gloom and sadness over this entire community.

Daniel Morris was born in the town of Middlesex and did not enter upon the practice of the law until he had reached mature manhood. The early years of his practice were spent at Rushville, where he acquired an excellent reputation as a successful lawyer. He was elected to the Assembly in the fall of 1858 and served one term. Subsequently he removed to Penn Yan, where he opened an office and practiced his profession. He was elected a member of Congress in the fall of 1864 and was re-elected to the next Congress, having served two terms. Mr. Morris was in Congress during the exciting period of the war and warmly co-operated with the friends of the national cause in the suppression of the Rebellion, and he took a deep interest in the welfare of the sick and wounded soldiers of the district. Mr. Morris did not have the advantages of an early education, yet by study and contact he became a well educated man. He was favored with good natural abilities and was a lawyer of considerable repute. He was strong with a jury and was successful in many important and close cases, and had he given his whole time to his profession he would have become eminent.

Morris Brown came to Penn Yan from Hammondsport prior to the year 1856. He had previously become the owner of a large timber tract lying south of Milo Center. At first he gave much of his time to this interest, but subsequently resumed and continued in active practice to

the time of his death. Mr. Brown was a man of fine and impressive presence, of broad culture, and dignified manner. He possessed natural ability of a high order, which was developed by reading and culture. He was a sound lawyer, and possessed the rare talent of presenting legal questions to a court in a terse and forcible manner. In 1843 he represented in part the county of Steuben in the legislature of this State. He also held the office of register in bankruptcy, and at the time of his death he was senior member of the firm of Brown & Wood.

David B. Prosser was a native of this county and did not commence to read law until he had reached his twenty-fifth year. The profession of law as an occupation was more a necessity than choice with him. In his earlier years he had given attention to the business of surveying, and while engaged in this calling he ascertained that a body of land in Jerusalem was held and possessed by parties whom he believed had no legal title. He purchased this land of the legal owner and brought ejectment to recover its possession. Mr. Prosser became so much interested in the legal questions involved that he at once gave his time and attention to an examination of the legal questions involved in his suit. His own interest prompted him to a close study and most thorough reading of the body of our law pertaining to real estate, its tenure, and the rules of law governing its transmission and descent. He succeeded in his cases in the highest courts of this State, and his accurate knowledge of that branch of the law, secured by his diligent study in their trial and preparation for the consideration of courts, made him a critical lawyer in that specialty. His success in these cases brought him into public notice at once and gave him a good clientage. Mr. Prosser was not an educated man, nor was he fluent in his speech, hence he was not an able man before a jury. Still he never hesitated to stand in his place and perform that duty to the best of his ability; and though thus trammelled the jury did not often fail to get an intelligent idea of his views of the case. Mr. Prosser was always regarded by his cotemporaries as the best lawyer in the county. He had a remarkable retentive memory, was self-reliant, and wonderfully tenacious of his opinions. He was the cotemporary of Judge Welles, James Taylor, Charles G. Judd, Judge Lewis, James L. Suby, and Delazon J. Sunderlin.

Samuel H. Welles, the only son of Judge Henry Welles, died in October, 1867, only a few months before his father. He was in the prime of life when he died, and his death, entirely unexpected as it was, produced a profound sorrow. Samuel H. Welles, though not brilliant, yet by the advantages acquired by a liberal education through the careful and painstaking tutelage of his father, and the advantages of his surroundings, he became and at the time of his death was a good lawyer. He had secured a good practice and his business and patrons were increasing when removed by death. At that time he was postmaster of Penn Yan. Mr. Welles was a genial, courteous gentleman and had a troop of warm friends.

John L. Lewis had a national reputation as member of the Masonic fraternity and a Knight Templar. Judge Lewis had the advantage of excellent tutelage in his youth from his father, who was a highly educated man and devoted his time to teaching. Hence early in life Judge Lewis was recognized as a scholar with scholarly tastes and habits. He possessed rare ability as a speaker, and in his prime was often called upon on public occasions for public addresses. His diction was classic and his delivery faultless. No young man has grown up with us who ever gave better promise of great distinction in his profession than did Judge Lewis. The writer would not be understood that Judge Lewis was a failure at the bar, only that he was unsuccessful in achieving that degree of success of which his real ability and early development gave promise. He seemed to have attained the highest measure of his success in his chosen profession at an early age. He was appointed district attorney of the county in 1841 and held that office until June, 1847, when he was succeeded by Daniel Morris, who was then elected by popular vote under the constitution of 1846. In 1851 he was elected county judge and held the office for one term. He continued in practice until his death, which occurred in the year 1889. In his later years Judge Lewis was sadly afflicted in the death of his wife and his two children—his only children. These bereavements seemed to crush his spirit and no doubt unnerved him for the battle of life. In his prime he was a very genial man, was fluent and edifying in his conversation, and enjoyed the confidence and respect of all.

Charles G. Judd was a practicing lawyer in this county for many

years. He died a few years since, full of years and experience. In 1836 he was appointed to the office of district attorney and held the same until succeeded by Judge Lewis in 1841. Mr. Judd must have become a resident of this place as early as 1830, and hence was the contemporary of Judge Welles, Roderick N. Morrison, Evert Van Buren, James Taylor, D. B. Prosser, and B. W. Franklin. For several years he was associated with Judge Lewis, the name of the firm being Judd & Lewis. Mr. Judd was a man of fine presence, but quite distant and reserved in his manner, which gave the impression that he was cold and selfish, but it may be that this was his temperament and did not correctly represent the real man. Mr. Judd was an educated man; he was a close student and a critical lawyer. He learned to practice under the old system, and he was an apt student, for in his day it was quite generally conceded that he was the most accurate and critical pleader then practicing at the bar. He was also a learned lawyer. He was gifted with a close and analytical mind. His reading was well directed and his conclusions logical. While it was conceded by all that Mr. Judd was learned in the law, at the same time the belief was quite general that he was too critical and was too narrow in his constructions. In other words, that he did not take sufficiently broad views of questions under consideration.

Andrew Oliver was born in Penn Yan, his father being Judge William M. Oliver. He had every advantage of early education which a young man could desire. After graduation he immediately entered his father's office, then a one-story brick office on the corner of the lot now occupied by Edson Potter, and after his admission entered upon the practice of the law in the same office. At that time the Yates County Bank was in full life and operation and Andrew was the attorney for the bank. This gave him a quiet business, which was well adapted to his habits and tastes. He never sought litigated business, and if by accident such fell into his hands he always called to his assistance a trial lawyer. He was appointed first judge of the old Court of Common Pleas in January, 1844, and held that office until June, 1847, when under the constitution then just adopted he was elected county judge, which latter office he held one term—four years. In the fall of 1851 he was elected to the Twenty-eighth Congress and was re-elected two



years after. After this service in Congress he retired to a farm in the town of Torrey near Dresden. Subsequently and in the fall of 1870 he was again elected county judge and served for six years, the term in the meantime having been extended from four to six years. Judge Oliver, though an educated man, was exceedingly modest—even timid. He was not a brilliant man, and it was only when thoroughly aroused that he evinced capabilities which under ordinary circumstances seemed dormant. He was a reasonably fair lawyer, and with time for thought his conclusions were usually sound. He seemed to lack that force of character essential in a presiding officer, hence it cannot be said that he was a success as a leading officer in the courts over which he presided. He always seemed popular with the people when before them for their suffrages. With all his excentricities he was still held in high repute and commanded the respect of his fellow citizens.

Henry M. Stewart was born in Oneida County and came to this county with his father when a boy. He was educated in our common schools, completing his education at the Canandaigua Academy. He read law with Mr. Prosser and was admitted and commenced to practice his profession in Penn Yan in the year 1839. In 1840 he was an acting master and examiner in chancery. Mr. Stewart was elected district attorney of this county in the fall of 1856 and held the same office for two terms thereafter. Mr. Stewart's natural endowments were far above the average, but it cannot be truly said that he developed them as he might have done. He possessed a clear and logical mind, was a close and logical reasoner, had clear conceptions of the law as he read it, at once apprehended the vital questions involved, and presented them clearly to a court or jury. He was a forcible speaker and always treated his antagonist with fairness and the utmost candor. He was an honorable practitioner, scrupulously honest in all his intercourse, never resorting to any artifice to secure a point or gain an end. He had the confidence and commanded the respect of all members of the bar; and yet he was not a successful lawyer—that is he did not succeed in building up a practice. And why? He was too modest, too uncombative to seek or take any case which would require a fight or contest. Besides this he lacked that push and energy essential to success. This, however,

may be said he never failed to meet and push with vigor and zeal the prosecution of any criminal who got ensnared in the meshes of the criminal law.

John D. Wolcott was the son of Dr. Wolcott, of Starkey, and a brother of H. G. Wolcott, late of Dundee. He read law with Evert Van Buren in Penn Yan, and upon his admission to the bar commenced the practice of the law. Soon after his admission he entered into partnership with Justus S. Glover, his brother-in-law, and this relation continued until Mr. Glover removed from Penn Yan. He was elected to the office of district attorney in the fall of 1862 and held the office two terms. He discharged the duties with satisfaction and fidelity. Mr. Wolcott was educated in the common schools and at Starkey Seminary, where his father at one time resided. He was not a brilliant man nor was he a broad minded lawyer. Yet Mr. Wolcott by his industry was quite successful in his practice, exhibiting at times much shrewdness and tact in the trial of his cases. Doubtless had he not been cut down so early in life he would have developed qualities which, with his push and aggressiveness, would have developed a broader foundation and a more accurate knowledge of the general principals of the law. It may be fairly said of Mr. Wolcott that he was reasonably successful as a lawyer, and that he was a careful, saving, and prudent man and a good citizen.

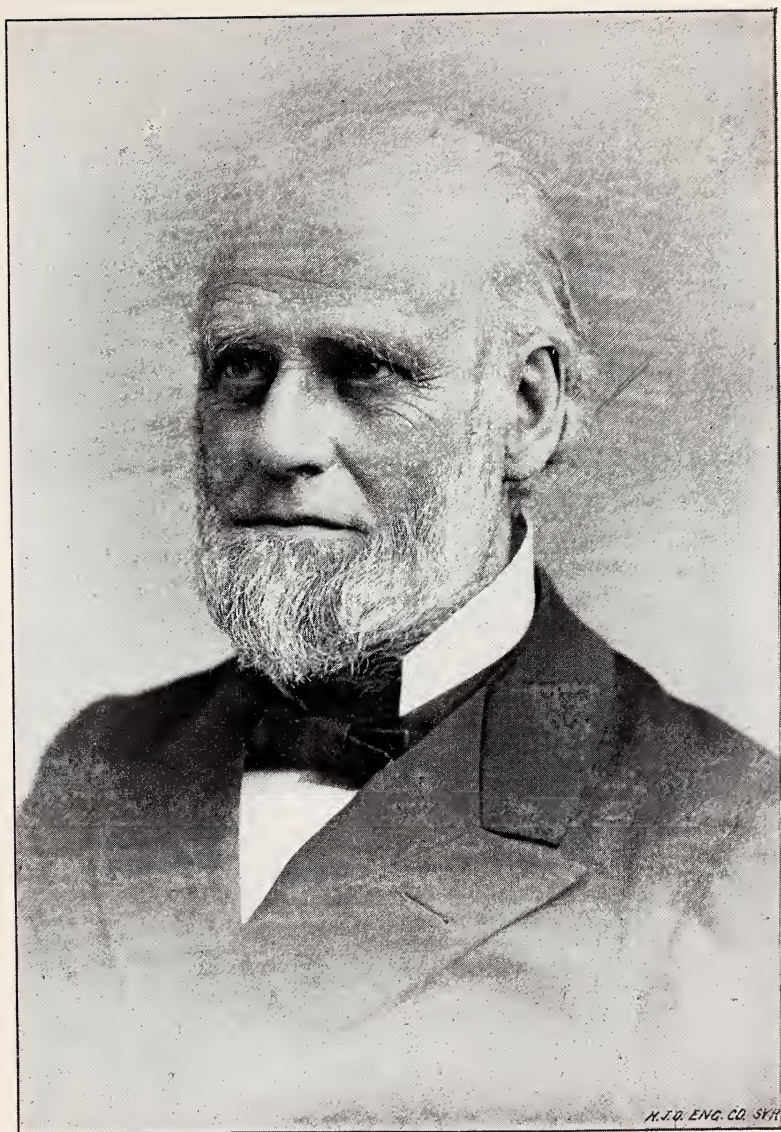
Hiland G. Wolcott was the son of Dr. Wolcott. He first read medicine with his father, but finally changed to the profession of the law. He was for many years a partner of James L. Seeley, but when Mr. Seeley was stricken in health he continued the practice alone. Mr. Wolcott was not a trial lawyer. Indeed he would never try any cause, not even his own. Yet it may be rightly said of him: He was a good lawyer. Especially was he noted for his knowledge of equity law and the practice governing that branch of the law. He was a practical surveyor, and as such had been called upon to measure and map the principal farms in the town of Starkey. This knowledge, and the fact that he made maps and kept copies of all the surveys he made, necessarily brought him a class of business which his knowledge thus acquired naturally qualified him to do. It will be seen that his specialty was office business. He had a large practice in the Surrogate's Court, and

very justly had the reputation of being an excellent accountant. He was gentlemanly in his intercourse and had the confidence and esteem of the members of the bar.

Henry A. Wisner was one of the older lawyers of Penn Yan, that is he was one of the early practitioners at the bar after the organization of this county. He came from a noted and distinguished family and was a highly educated man. He possessed an unusually bright mind and deservedly took rank as an able lawyer. His unfortunate habits, however, were an impediment to his usefulness as a man, and prevented the attainment of that measure of success which otherwise he might have reached. Judge Lewis read law with him, and in 1840 he was an acting magistrate of this town and his office was in the corner of his lot on which stood his residence, at the corner of Elm and Liberty streets.

Charles S. Baker was born in the village of Burdette, Schuyler County, N. Y., December 27, 1835, the oldest child of Susan E. and Elijah Baker. The other children of this couple were Sarah, George, and Francis E., the first and last surviving. As a child Charles S. was sturdy and well developed, and at an early age he assumed charge of the stables connected with his father's boarding and canaling business, his duty consisting in preparing horses for market, caring for diseased and disabled horses, and otherwise supervising that branch of an extensive business. At the age of fifteen he entered the office of Brooks & Tomlinson, of Elmira, N. Y., for the purpose of studying law, his previous educational opportunities having consisted of a common school education during the winter months and one year at Lima. During the last two years of his law study he taught mathematics in the Female Seminary at Elmira. He was admitted to practice law one year before he arrived at his majority and at once entered the employ of Brooks & Tomlinson, where he continued two years. At the expiration of that period some gentlemen residing and doing business in Dundee consulted Brooks & Tomlinson for the purpose of securing some young and competent lawyer to come to Dundee and open an office. With their advice and recommendation Mr. Baker came to Dundee in 1857 and opened an office. He remained there until the spring of 1861, his energy and ability gradually bringing to his office a remunerative practice. December 27, 1859, he married Hannah Elizabeth Harpending





*William S Briggs*





(deceased), only daughter of Asbury Harpending, of Dundee. The issue of this marriage was one child, Asbury H. Baker, who survives them. In the spring of 1861 Mr. Baker moved to Penn Yan and entered into partnership with Abram V. Harpending. This continued until 1867, when Mr. Baker moved to Hudson City, N. J., and entered the employ of one Clark at 128 Broadway, New York, conducting the details of an extensive and important practice. At the end of the year he severed his connection with Mr. Clark and formed a partnership with J. W. Feeter under the firm name of Feeter & Baker. At about the same time he moved from Hudson City, N. J., to Clifton, N. J. In the spring of 1870, after suffering the most severe financial losses resulting from some injudicious endorsements, he returned to Dundee and reopened an office. After two years he entered into partnership successively with James Spicer at Dundee and Hon. Hanford Struble at Penn Yan, the periods of time consumed by these two partnerships extending to 1876. At that time he formed a partnership with Hon. Henry C. Harpending at Dundee. During his partnership with Mr. Harpending he became interested in and lent his aid in the construction of the Syracuse, Geneva, and Corning Railroad, and from the time of its completion until his death he was one of the attorneys for the company which built the road. After dissolving with Mr. Harpending Mr. Baker became associated with L. M. Hair and H. V. L. Jones, successively, at Dundee, these two partnerships extending to 1884, when he again moved to Penn Yan for the purpose of forming the partnership with Hon. William S. Briggs which continued until Mr. Baker's death. These brief facts simply record the different business relationships entered into by Mr. Baker, but fail utterly to give an idea of his life work. The writer is forced to admit he is unable to frame language fitting the description. Mr. Baker was honorable, just, generous to a fault, indefatigable in the performance of his work and duty, a consistent churchman, true as steel to his friends, and charitable to his enemies.

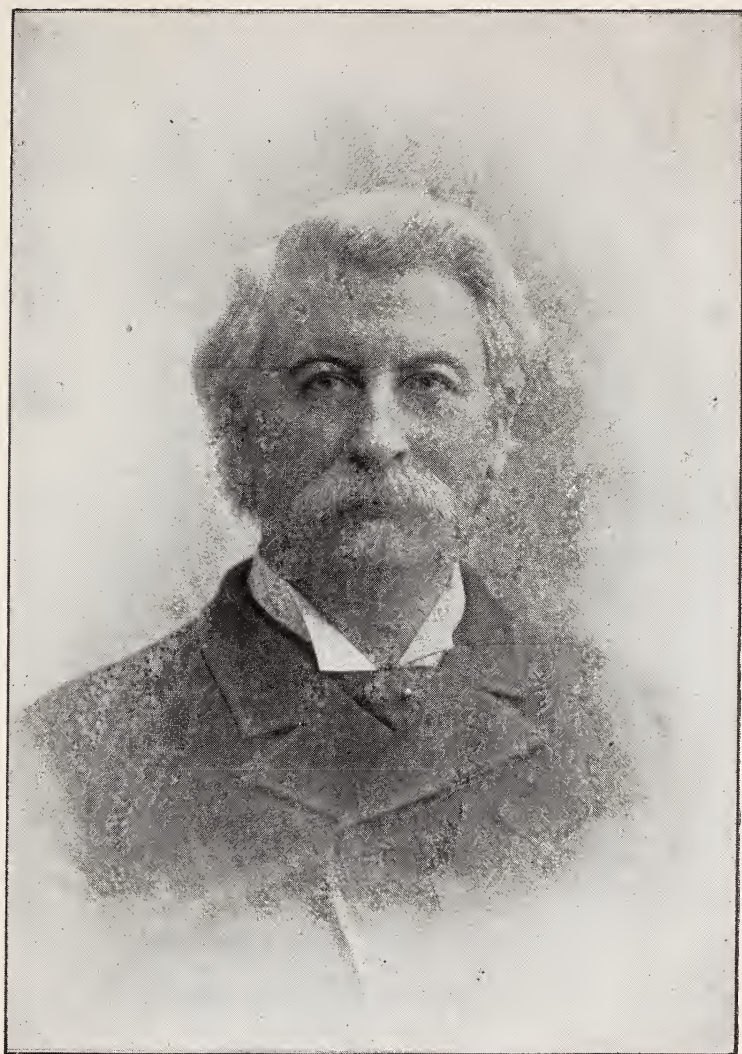
## PERSONNEL OF THE PRESENT YATES COUNTY BAR.

William S. Briggs was born in the town of Milo, October 30, 1820. He was educated at the common schools and Lima Seminary, at the

latter institution attending three years. Also during this time he occasionally taught school. In April, 1840, he commenced reading law with David B. Prosser and in 1846 was admitted after examination upon motion. Judge Briggs, for by this title has he been known for many years, has always practiced at the county seat. His first partner was A. V. Harpending, with whom he was associated two or three years, when Mr. Briggs was compelled on account of sickness to retire temporarily from professional work. He went upon a farm, but in October, 1849, returned to the village and formed a law partnership with his old instructor, D. B. Prosser, with whom he was associated until 1856, when Counsellor Briggs assumed the duties of the office of county judge, to which he was elected the preceding fall. As judge of County Courts Mr. Briggs thereafter served four successive terms, covering a period of sixteen years, and then declined a renomination for the same office. Following this Judge Briggs resumed his partnership with John T. Knox, which relationship was maintained until the firm was dissolved by Judge Briggs again going upon the County Court bench, Mr. Knox at the same time becoming district attorney of the county. Judge Briggs thereafter served one term of six years, making his service upon the bench cover a period of twenty-two years. At the end of his last term a partnership was formed with Charles S. Baker, which was dissolved by the death of the latter in April, 1891. Hon. Martin J. Sunderlin succeeded Mr. Baker as a partner, which firm, known as Briggs & Sunderlin, is still in active practice.

Hanford Struble.—For sketch of Judge Struble see Biographical Department of this volume.

Martin J. Sunderlin was born in Barrington, April 11, 1833. His early education was acquired at the district schools of the town, after which he attended the Dundee Academy for two terms. He read law under the direction of his father, Delazon J. Sunderlin, then in practice in Barrington, commencing about 1853 and continuing about three years. He was admitted at May General term of court in 1856, at Auburn. In November following his admission Mr. Sunderlin began practice at Barrington in partnership with his father, under the firm style of D. J. & M. J. Sunderlin. This relation continued until 1864, when our subject temporarily left the profession on account of ill health.



*Harford Struble*





Two years later he resumed practice in connection with farm work in Barrington, but in the spring of 1872 he went into active practice at Watkins, where he remained until the spring of 1891, coming then to Penn Yan and becoming the business partner of Judge Briggs, succeeding the late Charles Baker. While a resident practitioner in Schuyler County in 1882 Mr. Sunderlin was elected county judge, serving from January 1, 1883, to January 1, 1889. In politics Judge Sunderlin is a Democrat, and as the candidate of that party was elected to the judgeship.

Benjamin L. Hoyt was born in Litchfield, Conn., on June 22, 1819. In 1820 the family came to New York State, living for a short time in each of the counties of Chenango, Tompkins, and Otsego. In the latter county Benjamin L. attended school in the old Cooper mansion and later at an academy at Amsterdam. His father's family also lived for a time at Philadelphia, but afterward came to Steuben County. Here Benjamin commenced the study of law with Morris Brown, of Hammondsport, but after a year or so came to Penn Yan and read in the office of Wisner & Lewis. In 1841 he was admitted to practice in the old Common Pleas Court and afterward, at Syracuse, he was admitted as a Supreme Court practitioner. Mr. Hoyt has ever since lived in or near Penn Yan, and has been known as a successful school teacher as well as a lawyer. In the law practice he was once associated with John L. Lewis. In 1850 he was elected justice of the peace of the town of Milo and held that office thirty-two years. He was justice of sessions two terms. Before his election to the justiceship 'Squire Hoyt was town inspector of common schools. In local school affairs he has been interested, being now one of the longest continued members of the Board of Education. For two years he was president of the board and then declined a re-election to the same position. In politics 'Squire Hoyt is a firm and unflinching Republican.

James Spicer was born in Barrington, N. Y., October 23, 1826. His early education was very limited and confined to a brief attendance at the district schools. He read law with D. J. Sunderlin and was admitted to the bar in 1862. Mr. Spicer practiced mainly at Dundee, but for one year he was at Watkins in partnership with Judge Hurd. Commencing in 1877 he practiced with Hon. Hanford Struble one year at Penn Yan. At Dundee Mr. Spicer's law partner was H. G. Wolcott

until 1872, who was succeeded for three years by the late Charles Baker. His practice at the county seat then followed. In 1880 James Spicer organized the Dundee National Bank and since that time has been its president. This office and its duties have necessitated his retirement in part from the general practice of the law, and he now resides on his farm of 171 acres one mile north of Dundee, one of the most beautiful farms in Yates County. He takes great pride in supervising it and in raising blooded stock.

John H. Butler, the editor and publisher of the *Vineyardist*, a well known paper issuing from the county seat, was a native of Le Roy, Genesee County, N. Y., born July 3, 1836. His early education was received in the common schools only, while his legal education was acquired by reading law in the office of Hon. C. J. McDowell, of Cohocton, whose daughter he married, and at the Albany Law School, he being graduated from the latter in 1859. From the time of his admission to the bar until 1877 Mr. Butler practiced law in Steuben County, and during that time he was twice elected district attorney, first in 1866 and re-elected in 1869. He was also supervisor of his town for several terms and held other minor offices. He took an active part in the War of the Rebellion, having enlisted as a private and chosen a lieutenant of his company. Coming to Penn Yan Mr. Butler became a member of the law firm of Brown, Wood & Butler, which continued until Mr. Brown's death, and was succeeded by the firm of Wood & Butler and later by Wood, Butler & Morris. In March, 1883, Mr. Butler withdrew from the firm and three years later he established the *Vineyardist*, a newspaper publication of which he was the founder and has continued to be its editor and publisher to the present time. Soon after coming to Penn Yan Mr. Butler was appointed register in bankruptcy for the Twenty-eighth Congressional District and held office till the bankrupt law was repealed. In politics Mr. Butler is a strong Republican.

Silas Kinne is better known as cashier of Baldwin's Bank of Penn Yan than as a member of the Yates County Bar, yet he has been a lawyer since 1860. He was born in Seneca County, May 6, 1836, and was educated at Ovid Academy, from which he was graduated in 1855. From Rutgers College he graduated with the class of '59. He then attended the Albany Law School and was admitted at the Albany County Gen-

eral term in December, 1860. For more than nine years prior to 1870 he practiced law at Ovid, but in May of that year he came to Penn Yan to take the position of cashier in Baldwin's Bank, with which he has ever since been identified. Mr. Kinne is an active Democrat; he was twice the candidate of his party for the office of county treasurer and once for county judge and surrogate. As was expected he was each time defeated at the polls, yet the run he made was certainly gratifying to himself and his friends. For six years he was trustee of the village and is now a member of the Board of Education. He is also a member of the firm of Potter, Kinne & Kendall, dealers in lumber, coal, etc.

George E. Baley was born in Barrington, October 29, 1842; he was educated in the district schools, Starkey Seminary, Dundee Academy, and attended one year at the People's College at Havana. He read law with Hon. Jeremiah McGuire at Havana and also with Hull Fanton at the same place, and was admitted to the bar at Rochester in June, 1867. Mr. Baley has always resided in Barrington and practiced his profession in connection with his other labors as farmer.

Michael A. Leary, a prominent lawyer of Penn Yan, was born in Ireland on the 7th of August, 1847, and came to this country with his parents, locating at East Bloomfield, Ontario County, when he was about eight years old. In Ontario County young Leary was educated in the districts schools and the Bloomfield Academy. In 1866 he came to Penn Yan and entered the academy, taking the preparatory course, and studied the classics for two years. In 1868 he commenced reading law in the office of John L. Lewis, and at the Monroe County General term in December, 1869, he was admitted to practice. In 1871 Mr. Leary entered into law practice with Hon. Daniel Morris, a relation that continued until 1877. Since that time Mr. Leary has practiced alone. In politics Mr. Leary is a Democrat, and as such his voice has been heard through the county and elsewhere in Western New York. In 1873 he ran against Henry M. Stewart for the office of district attorney and was defeated by only 300 votes. As a candidate for Assembly against S. C. Cleveland he was beaten by 311 votes only, and in that canvass Mr. Cleveland had the sympathy of many hundreds of Democratic voters. Mr. Leary was never a candidate through his own political aspirations, but rather through the sense of duty to his party. In 1884



and in 1888 he was delegate to the Democratic National Conventions. In 1890 he was a member of the constitutional commission appointed to revise the judiciary article of the constitution of the State of New York.

John T. Andrews, 2d, was born in Reading, Steuben (now Schuyler) County, March 9, 1842. His early education was acquired in the Dundee and Watkins Academies, supplemented by a preparatory course at Alfred University. In 1863 he entered Union College and was graduated in 1864, having entered the junior class. In August, 1864, Mr. Andrews enlisted Company D of the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth New York Volunteer Infantry. In December he became its second lieutenant, but was promoted first lieutenant and afterward brevet captain. He was mustered out of service June 23, 1865. Returning from the service Captain Andrews spent three years in mercantile business in Dundee and in 1868 commenced reading law with B. W. Franklin, of Penn Yan. He was admitted in December, 1870, at Rochester. While Captain Andrews has ever since been identified with the profession his practice has become secondary to other interests. In 1873 he commenced manufacturing on the outlet and is now the proprietor of one of the best paper-mills in the country. He is also connected with a law, real estate, and loaning firm at the county seat. In 1881 Captain Andrews was elected member of Assembly. He was appointed postmaster at Penn Yan in July, 1890.

Henry V. L. Jones, of Dundee, was born at Lodi in 1846, and got his first start by earnings saved from holding the plow and pitching hay. When fourteen he became a clerk in a small country store and when fifteen obtained a teacher's certificate. In 1864 he entered the Union army as a volunteer; leaving the service with an honorable discharge he became a student at Ovid Academy; in 1867 he entered Genesee College. Leaving this institution he became a student at Cornell. He graduated from that institution in the class of '70. After graduating he became a student in the law office of John J. Van Allen, of Watkins. In the fall of '72 he received the nomination to the Democratic ticket for school commissioner of Seneca County and was elected to that office. In 1875 Mr. Jones was admitted to the bar and at once entered in a successful practice at Ovid, afterward coming to Dundee. At that place

he was twice elected to the office of justice of the peace by large majorities. Mr. Jones has always been active in political matters and usually has taken the stump during important campaigns, and frequently is the representative of the Democratic party in State conventions. In 1878 he was united in marriage to Miss Ella Sawyer. Since going to Dundee Mr. Jones has rapidly risen in the local ranks. In 1886 he was a candidate for the office of district attorney and again in 1889 was a candidate for county judge. He received a handsome vote in both campaigns, but was overpowered by the heavy Republican majority.

Darius A. Ogden was born in Penn Yan, March 10, 1850. He was educated at the Penn Yan Academy and entered Cornell for the scientific course. After three years he left the university. In 1871 he commenced reading law with Morris & Leary and in 1874 at the Monroe General term was admitted to the bar. For two or three years Mr. Ogden practiced in Penn Yan, and then left the profession to take charge of the local gas company, with which he was connected eleven years. In April, 1891, he became proprietor of a hardware business in Penn Yan, succeeding the old firm of Morgan & Perkins.

John T. Knox, the present district attorney of Yates County, was born in the town of Wilson, Niagara County, on February 26, 1844. His elementary education was acquired in the common schools and the Wilson Collegiate Institute. In September, 1863, he entered Hamilton College and was graduated in 1867. After teaching one year in the Cooperstown Seminary Mr. Knox came to Penn Yan and taught in the academy. During the school year of 1869-70 he was principal. In June, 1870, he entered the office of Judge Briggs for a course of law study and on January 4, 1871, was admitted to practice. In 1872 Mr. Knox became the law partner of Judge Briggs, a relation that was maintained for six years and until our subject became district attorney, while his partner at the same time became county judge, thus ending the partnership. Mr. Knox was first elected attorney for the county in 1877 and again in 1880. In 1891 he was again nominated for the same office and again elected. He was village clerk for twelve years and is one of the village trustees for the fiscal year 1891-92. Mr. Knox is a Republican; likewise he is a leader of his party in the county.

Andrew C. Harwick was born at South Barre, Orleans County, N. Y.,

November 30, 1849. He was educated at the Albion Academy, followed by the scientific course of Cornell University, from which latter institution he was graduated in 1873. He read law with O. A. Eddy, of Holley, N. Y., and was admitted in October, 1876, at the Monroe County General term. Counsellor Harwick practiced at Albion for about a year and then came to Penn Yan. Mr. Harwick was district attorney of Yates County from January, 1884, to January, 1887, and has been otherwise prominent in village affairs and politics. He is also a leading spirit in fire department matters and with a number of the social and fraternal bodies of the village.

Delos A. Bellis, who since 1885 has filled the position of police justice of the village of Penn Yan, was born in Barrington, March 17, 1851. In the district schools and in the Dundee and Penn Yan Academies he received his education. In 1871, at Kalamazoo, Mich., he commenced law study with Thomas R. Sherwood and afterward with Sherwood & Edwards, but in 1872 he came to Penn Yan and finished his course with John L. Lewis. At the Monroe County General term in October, 1874, Mr. Bellis was admitted to practice. From that until the present time he has practiced at the county seat. In 1883 Mr. Bellis was the successful candidate for justice of the peace of Milo, he being the nominee of the local Democracy. In this office he has since served, being re-elected at the expiration of each succeeding term. In 1885 the village trustees appointed him police justice and at the end of each subsequent three years' term he has been re-elected by the village electors.

William Hamlin Fiero was born in Milo, January 5, 1846, and was educated at the district schools, Penn Yan Academy, and Lima Seminary. From March, 1872, to June, 1875, he read law with Prosser & King, of Penn Yan, and was admitted at the June General term at Rochester in the last named year. Mr. Fiero has always practiced at the county seat and without a partner. He is a Republican and as such was, in the spring of 1889, elected justice of the peace of the town of Milo, an office he still holds.

William T. Morris was born in Potter, September 12, 1853. He attended the Penn Yan Academy and entered Cornell in 1869 and was graduated in 1873, having taken the scientific course with Latin added.

He read law with his father, Hon. Daniel Morris, and with Foster & Thomson, of New York city, and was admitted at the Brooklyn General term February 17, 1876. Mr. Morris remained with Foster & Thomson one year in the capacity of managing clerk, and in the fall of 1877 came to Penn Yan, where he has since practiced. In September, 1877, he was one of the law firm of Morris & Sheppard, but on April 1, 1879, he became junior partner in the firm of Wood, Butler & Morris. March 3, 1883, the firm dissolved and Ralph T. Wood and Mr. Morris continued under the style of Wood & Morris until June, 1884, since which time Mr. Morris has practiced without a partner. He was admitted to practice in the United States Circuit Court on June 21, 1891.

Calvin J. Huson, lately and particularly remembered as having been able to carry Yates County as Democratic nominee for the Assembly, was born in Barrington, January 30, 1855. In the district schools and in the Dundee and Penn Yan Academies his education was acquired. In 1873 he commenced a course of law study with Briggs & Knox and at the Monroe General term in April, 1876, he was admitted to practice. After his admission Mr. Huson went in the office of Judge Struble and when the firm of Spicer & Struble was formed he became managing clerk. After two years he succeeded Mr. Spicer in the firm, which then became known as Struble & Huson. Four years later Judge Struble went on the bench and O. F. Randolph became partner with Mr. Huson under the style of Huson & Randolph. The latter soon retired and Mr. Huson practiced alone until January, 1889, when William D. Dwelle became associated in the business under the name of Huson & Dwelle. Calvin J. Huson is a leader of the Democracy in Yates County and has frequently represented his county at Democratic State conventions. For a number of years he has been chairman of the Yates County Democratic Central Committee. In 1890 he represented Yates in the lower House of the State legislature. During the session of the legislature in 1891 he held the important office of Assembly journal clerk. On January 1, 1892, Mr. Huson was appointed deputy comptroller of the State of New York, which position he now holds.

Orville F. Randolph was born in the town of Torrey, August 2, 1855. He graduated from Starkey Seminary in 1873 and entered Oberlin



College in the class of '76, but left before finishing his course. He read law with Spicer & Baker, of Dundee, and with Briggs & Knox, of Penn Yan, and was admitted at Buffalo in June, 1877. Mr. Randolph has practiced in Penn Yan and Dundee, but a part of his time has been spent in the West. From 1884 to 1886 he was in partnership with Calvin J. Huson. Since the summer of 1888 he has been connected with the office work of the Yates County National Bank.

Abraham Gridley, more familiarly known as Captain Gridley by reason of his connection with a local military organization, was born at Auburn on the 29th of October, 1851. His early education was acquired in the common district schools only, but by self-application and perseverance he fitted himself for college. In 1869 he entered Cornell, taking the scientific course, and was graduated in 1873. He then entered the Law Department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and graduated in 1875. He came East and read law with Judge Struble, and was admitted at Syracuse as an attorney in 1878 and at Rochester in 1880 as a counselor at law. The present law firm of Carmody & Gridley was formed in 1889.

Thomas Carmody was born in the town of Milo, October 9, 1859. He was educated at the district schools, the Penn Yan Academy, and attended Cornell University for three years, but was not graduated. During his studies at Cornell he read law with A. A. Hungerford at Ithaca. He was admitted at the Monroe County General term in April, 1887. In January, 1889, he formed a law partnership with Abraham Gridley at Penn Yan under the style of Carmody & Gridley. In April, 1891, Governor Hill appointed Mr. Carmody to the office of district attorney of Yates County.

John H. Johnson, junior member of the late firm of Franklin, Andrews & Johnson, was born in Canandaigua, August 2, 1853. He was educated at the academy of his native village and entered Hobart College as a sophomore in 1874, but was not graduated. He read law with Smith & Hamlin, of Canandaigua, and was admitted at Rochester in 1879. He practiced at Canandaigua until 1882, when he came to Penn Yan and became associated with the firm of Franklin & Andrews, and in 1888 he became a member of the firm.

Henry C. Harpending, of Dundee, was born at Starkey on the 8th

of September, 1847. He was educated at Dundee and at Starkey Seminary, where he graduated in 1868. He read law with Feeter & Baker, of New York city, and then with Mr. Baker at Dundee. He was admitted to the bar in the spring of 1872 at Oswego, and immediately opened an office at Dundee. Mr. Harpending has for many years been identified with public affairs. In the spring of 1873 he was elected justice of the peace and served four years. In the spring of 1883 he was elected supervisor and served one year. In the fall of 1883 he was elected a member of the New York Assembly; he served one term. Mr. Harpending is the only Democrat, with two exceptions, that within the last twenty years has represented the Republican county of Yates in the State Assembly.

Lewis J. Wilkin, a practicing lawyer at Dundee, read law in the office of Prosser & Briggs at Penn Yan and was admitted to the bar in 1856.

William D. Dwelle was born in Potter, January 2, 1863; he was educated at Penn Yan Academy and entered Cornell in 1879, graduating in 1883. He read law with Struble & Huson and Briggs & Baker, of Penn Yan, and Stevens & Selden, of Rochester, and was admitted at Rochester, April 1, 1886. Mr. Dwelle practiced alone until 1889, when the present law firm of Huson & Dwelle was formed. He has held the office of village clerk since April, 1888.

In this connection there should also be mentioned the names of two other members of the legal profession in the county: Maj. Foster A. Hixson, of Vine Valley, and Lyman J. Baskin, of Starkey. Major Hixson was formerly prominently identified with the practice in the county, but since the war of 1861-65 has directed his attention to other matters. He is a grape grower in Middlesex. Lyman J. Baskin practices at Starkey.

## CHAPTER XIII.

## THE MEDICAL PROFESSION OF YATES COUNTY.

WHEN we consider the importance and elevated character of the science of medicine—its object, the preservation of the health and lives, and the healing of diseases, and the amelioration of the physical and mental sufferings of our fellow human beings, its extent embracing a knowledge of all science—it is evident that medical education should engage the earnest attention of the entire medical profession. The advances made in all the branches of knowledge, and especially in the science of medicine during the past century, have exceeded in extent and value those of all past ages; and it is no longer possible to compress its vast domain within the narrow limits of “seven professorships.” The present age owes its wonderful progress to experimental and scientific research.

Evolution and development are the talismanic watchwords of the nineteenth century, and the doctrine is now being accepted that things in the world do grow and are not made; it is no longer universally accepted as a matter of religious faith that the world was created by supernatural power, for many of our deepest thinkers, men of the most profound understanding, believe that it has been gradually unfolded by the action of natural causes. But not wishing to be accused of heresy it may be stated that whether the theory be according to Darwin, or Hackel, or Spencer, or some other philosopher, the law will be the same in any case, and away back behind “protoplasm,” “germinal matter,” and “celular germ” there exists abundant proof of a “first great cause,” of an “infinite wisdom,” for the depth of which language hath not expression. A flood of light on this subject is now pouring forth on the world, but its acceptance as a convincing truth rests in a great measure wholly with the individual.

“The world,” says Goethe, “is not so framed that it can keep quiet.” All the natural energies are brought into full force by the spirit of enterprise, by the spirit of progress. The telegraph wires wipe out all ter-

ritorial boundaries and railroads penetrate the utmost confines of the earth, and by them States and territories are bound fast together in one web. Science and enterprise have spanned the continent with electric wires, cabled the Atlantic Ocean, given us the measurements of revolving planets, spread forth the canvas to the gale, and made the trackless ocean a highway through the world. By the use of scientific and cunningly devised instruments bleak skies and rude winds are foreseen and the navigator places himself in safety. The electric light has displaced gas as effectually as the latter did the "tallow dip," and is established upon a secure commercial basis. School-houses, churches, newspapers, and books open up to the poorest the lights and opportunities of knowledge.

The great and wide advancement in the different branches of medical science within the last generation is as much a marvel as the progress made in any other of the arts and sciences. The poorest laborer can now obtain advice and medicine far superior to that which royalty could command one or two centuries ago. "The advance in medical knowledge within one's memory," says Sir James Paget, "is amazing whether reckoned in the wonders of science not yet applied, or in practical results, in the general lengthening of life, or, which is still better, in the prevention and decrease of pain and misery and in the increase of working power."

The dawning of medical science which now sheds its light through the world began with Hippocrates nearly 2,300 years ago, and he first treated of medicine with anything like sound or rational principles. He wrote extensively, much of which has been translated, and serves as a foundation for the succeeding literature of the profession. He relied chiefly on the healing powers of nature, his remedies being exceedingly simple. He taught that the people ought not to load themselves with excrements, or keep them in too long; and for this reason he prescribed "meats for loosening the belly," and if these failed he directed the use of the clysters. Three hundred years before Christ Erasistratus invented and used the catheter, introduced the tourniquet, and produced an instrument for lithotriptic operations. Celsus flourished A. D. 50 to 120 as the greatest of Roman surgeons. Through all the centuries, from the beginning of the Christian era down to the time of the discovery of



the circulation of the blood by Harvey, 1619, medicine shed but a glimmering light in the midst of the darkness then enshrouding the world, and the greatest strides in the advancement of the various branches of medical science have been made in the last 100 years, and most of them may be placed to the credit of the last half century.

Physiologists no longer believe with Paracelsus in the sixteenth century that the planets have a direct controlling action on the body, the sun upon the heart, and the moon upon the brain; nor do they now believe that the vital spirits are prepared in the brain by distillation; nor do they admit that the chyle effervesces in the heart under the influence of salt and sulphur, which take fire together and produce the vital flame. On the contrary modern physiology teaches that the phenomena of the living body are the results of physical and chemical changes; the temperature of the blood is ascertained by the thermometer; and the different fluids and gases of the body are analyzed by the chemist, giving to each its own properties and function.

While the eighteenth century witnessed greater advancement in the department of medical science than any or all of its predecessors, the crowing achievements seemed to have been reserved for the nineteenth, the present century. Among the thousands of elements that comprise this century's advance in medical science mention will be made of but one, and that among the first discoveries, *i. e.*, the use of anæsthetics, which benumb the nerves of sensation and produce a profound but transient state of insensibility, in which the most formidable operation may be performed while the patient sleeps and dreams of home and happy hours, and the physician is left to the pleasing reflection that he is causing no pain or suffering.

But it appears that as rapid as has been this advance during the last 100 years so, correspondingly, have these developed new forms and phases of disease to baffle the skill of the most eminent physicians and scientists in the land; and while diseases, malarious in their character, have for a time defied the attempts to overcome them, they have nevertheless been subdued and conquered. Medical skill has proven equal to every emergency. There is today known to botanists over 140,000 plants, a large proportion of which are being constantly added to the already appalling list of new remedies. Many of these new drugs pos-

sess little if any virtue, save as their sale adds to the exchequer of some enterprising pharmacist. A drug house in New England recently issued a circular in which they advertised 33 syrups, 42 elixirs, 93 solid extracts, 150 varieties of sugar-coated pills, 236 tinctures, 245 roots, barks, herbs, seeds, and flowers, 322 fluid extracts, and 348 general drugs and chemicals.

The ancients were not so well supplied with drugs. It was the custom among the Babylonians to expose the sick to the view of passers-by in order to learn of them whether they had been afflicted with a like distemper and by what remedies they had been cured. It was also the custom of those days for all persons who had been sick and were cured to put up a tablet in the temple of Esculapius, wherein they gave an account of the remedies that had restored them to health. Prior to the time of Hippocrates all medicine was in the hands of the priests and were associated with numerous superstitions, such as sympathetic ointments applied to the weapon with which the wound was made, incantations, charms, amulets, the royal touch for the cure of scrofula, human or horse flesh for the cure of epilepsy, convulsions treated with human brains.

While all this credulous superstition of early ages, born of ignorance, existed to a vastly large extent, it has not been fully wiped out by the generally advanced education of the present day. The latest appeal to the credulity of the masses of the people is an invention to relieve the unfortunate sick, and is known as the "Faith Cure." The persons seeking to popularize this means of cure are either deceived themselves or are deceiving others. Upon this point a popular writer says: If the disease be an incurable one all the prayers in the world will not cure it. Filth brings fever; prayer cannot interpose. There is probably no department of medicine at the present time more promising of good results than is sanitary science. While physiology and pathology are making known to us the functions of the human body and the nature and cause of disease, sanitary science is steadily teaching how the causes of disease may be removed or avoided and health thereby secured.

Progress during the coming 100 years, if only equal to that of the past, will more than have accomplished great works in the advancement of sanitary science; but the accomplishment of this work calls not only

for the labor of the physician, but for the intelligent co-operation of the people; the physician cannot do it alone. If anything really great is to be done in the way of sanitary improvement, and of preventing disease and death, it must be done largely by the people themselves. This implies that they must be instructed in sanitary matters. They must be taught what unsanitary conditions favor the origin of disease, how disease is spread, and the means of its prevention. It is true that that knowledge is of the greatest value to us which teaches the means of self-preservation, then the importance of a widespread knowledge of how to prevent disease and premature death cannot be overestimated.

While it is never within the province of the duties of the historian to call attention to defective conditions, the writer of this chapter nevertheless feels impelled to refer incidentally to the marked unsanitary condition of the county seat of Yates County. Penn Yan is no longer the cross-roads hamlet; on the contrary it has had a municipal organization and character for a period of nearly sixty years, and in all this time there has not been made on the part of the local authorities any movement that has resulted in establishing approved sanitary regulations or improvements within the village. The great, the pressing, need is a complete and thorough system of trunk sewerage through the principal streets, with branches through a number of the lateral thoroughfares. This should be followed by a system of water supply, and abundance of pure and wholesome water being easily obtainable from the depths of Lake Keuka, and many and various are the methods to be suggested by which the supply could be forced through the street mains. Penn Yan as a hamlet and thereafter incorporated village is all of three-quarters of a century old. The general character of the earth throughout the village, and particularly west of Jacob's Brook, is sandy gravel; therefore exceedingly porous and readily absorbent of all deposits of liquid, filth, and sewage matter. And it is a fact that the whole earth in the vicinity named is scarcely less than a cesspool.

But the great difficulty in the way of securing these sanitary improvements has been in the prejudice existing in the minds of ultra-conservative residents against incurring any bonded indebtedness on the part of the corporation. This spirit is in a measure commendable, but at the same time it is open to criticism. "Show me a municipality," says

a recent able writer, "that has no bonded indebtedness and I will show you a city that is at least fifty years behind the times." It is not the moderate indebtedness that injures the cities, but the indiscriminate and ill-advised bonding, forced upon the corporation by ruthless and incompetent public servants. This is a subject that should be discussed in every place of business, every household, and on every corner until the local authorities move in the matter. So long as there is no visitation of epidemic disease, malarious or otherwise, so long are the people safe enough, but should such come the destruction to human life would be fearful beyond estimate. Therefore it behooves the people and the authorities to look well to their condition from a sanitary point of view, and discover whether or not something should be done at once to correct existing evils and possibly preventing premature disease and death.

But, to return from this degression, it may be asked, What can be said of the medical profession and its representatives in Yates County? Like some other of the pioneer elements of the county the early medical practitioners recorded but little of their own history, and whatever is to be now learned of them comes only by chance, and it is with great difficulty that even the names of the first medical men are recalled. However running throughout this volume will be found the names of physicians, early and late; and in a department of this work in which are personal sketches will be found a record of the professional lives of many of the practitioners in the county.

#### THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF YATES.

On the 4th of March, 1823, agreeable to a notice previously given, there assembled at the Yates Hotel, kept by Miles Benham, at Penn Yan, a number of the more prominent physicians of the county. The purpose of this gathering was the formation of a medical association for Yates County. Dr. Uri Judd was called to the chair and Dr. William Cornwell, jr., was appointed secretary. The meeting proceeded to vote for the officers of the society, with the following result: President, Dr. Joshua Lee; vice-president, Dr. Uri Judd; secretary, John Hatmaker; treasurer, Dr. Andrew F. Oliver; censors, Drs. Anthony Gage, Andrew F. Oliver, John L. Cleveland, Ira Bryant, and Archi-



bald Burnett. The physicians present at this meeting were Drs. Uri Judd, William Cornwell, jr., Anthony Gage, Andrew F. Oliver, Ira Bryant, John Hatmaker, Archibald Burnett, Isaac S. Kidder, John L. Cleveland, Elisha Doubleday, jr., and Ezekiel B. Pulling. The first regular anniversary meeting was held in the Yates Hotel in the village of Penn Yan on June 3, 1823. On this occasion an appropriate address was delivered by the president, Dr. Joshua Lee, at which time the physicians whose names have already been mentioned produced their licenses and became full members of the society. A code of by-laws was at the same time adopted and the corporate name given was "Yates Medical Society." At this time medical societies fully organized were clothed with what would now appear to be unusual and extraordinary powers. The Yates Society, like others of the same character throughout the counties of the State, held the power to examine candidates for admission to practice medicine and surgery, and admitted them not only to membership in the society, but as well licensing them as practicing physicians.

At this early meeting among other things the society adopted a form of license which read as follows:

*"The President and Members of the Yates Medical Society.*

"To whom these presents may come, send greeting:

"WHEREAS, Dr. Blank, on examination by the Censors of said Society, according to the form of the statute in such cases made and provided, hath been approved relative to his knowledge in the theory and practice of physic and surgery, I do therefore license him to practice physic and surgery within this State, and do also recommend him to the notice of the faculty and attention of the public.

"In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the seal of said Society to be affixed at blank, this blank day of blank, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and blank.

"BLANK, President."

The by-laws of the Yates Medical Society provided for the possession of a common seal, upon which was an inscription bearing the society's name and the impression of a skeleton. It was also provided that the officers annually chosen to preside over and administer the affairs of the society should be a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and five censors.

Now, for the purpose of bringing to the attention of the reader the names of as many as possible of the older physicians of Yates County, it is proper that there be inserted at this time a list of those who be-

came members of the society and signed its constitution and by-laws, thereby accepting their provisions, although it may be possible that some of the names here given were not among the original members as shown by the old minute-book of the society. The membership was as follows: Joshua Lee, John Hatmaker, Andrew F. Oliver, John L. Cleveland, Samuel B. Bradley, Isaac S. Kidder, Ezekiel B. Pulling, Archibald Burnett, William Cornwell, jr., Elisha Doubleday, jr., Ira Bryant, Calvin Fargo, Moses Chapman, Walter Wolcott, Jarvis Darling, Isaac Beers, Uri Judd, Jeremiah B. Andrews, Anthony Gage, James Heermans, John Warner, W. W. Tyler, R. Randall, Henry Sprague, Caleb A. Lamb, Enos Barnes, David S. Wicks, Nathan S. Kidder, Isaac Chissom, Lewis Aiken Bardwell, Hosea Cohner, Richard Huson, and Nelson Peck.

At a meeting of the society held June 23, 1828, the by-laws were amended, but did not materially differ from those originally adopted, and to the later articles are signed the names of others of the older physicians of the county and of some who are still in active practice. They were as follows: Forest Harkness, Odenathus Hill, Daniel H. Whitney, Benjamin Nichols, William D. Cook, B. N. Wisner, Abijah E. Perry, Francis M. Porter, Oliver P. Wolcott, Winans Bush, Sidney B. Willey, W. S. Purdy, P. T. Caton, Henry Smith, H. P. Sartwell, Joel Dorman, Asahel Clark, William Wixom, William Oliver, F. N. Hammond, Guy L. Doubleday, Eben S. Smith, George W. Brundage, J. I. Denman, A. B. Sloane, Byron Spence, A. R. Otis, Robert P. Bush, John D. Wolcott, Job S. Stevens, G. Z. Dimmock, William H. Crane, J. M. Waddell, C. B. Stone, Charles Woodward, Benjamin L. Holt, R. R. C. Bordwell, B. M. Smith, Cyrus C. Harvey, Byron B. Havens, Amelia C. Christie, Nathan L. Lusk, John M. Maloney, Schuyler Lott, E. P. Stuart, B. H. Ovenshire, W. A. Wilson, O. E. Newman, C. M. Van Dyke, E. D. Seaman, Eugene Bardwell, William A. Oliver.

The founder and leading spirit of the old Yates Medical Society was Dr. Andrew F. Oliver, the father of the present William Oliver and grandfather of the present William A. Oliver. Dr. Oliver, the pioneer physician, was born in Londonderry, N. H., in 1792 and became a resident and practicing physician of Penn Yan in 1818. In 1827 he was appointed surrogate of Yates County. In 1845 he received from the

Regents of the University the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine, an unexpected and unsolicited tribute to his professional standing and merits. In 1857 he was elected a permanent member of the State Medical Society. He was president of the local society several terms and on several occasions its delegate to the State Society. He died in Penn Yan on June 11, 1857. Following his death the Yates Medical Society met in Penn Yan and adopted resolutions, one of which was as follows :

*"Resolved,* That the members of the Yates County Medical Society have received with the deepest regret and sorrow the announcement of the death of their truly lamented friend and associate, Dr. Andrew F. Oliver. Long and faithfully has he discharged the arduous duties of his profession, proving himself a noble benefactor of suffering humanity and an honor to this Society, of which he was one of its most distinguished members."

Dr. Oliver was a practicing physician in Yates County for nearly forty years. Closely associated with Dr. Andrew F. Oliver in the laudable enterprise of forming the old medical society were Drs. William Cornwell, jr., Joshua Lee, John Hatmaker, John L. Cleveland, and Uri Judd. In fact these physicians were not only present at the first meeting, but they were instrumental in bringing about the permanent organization of the society and in promoting its after prosperity. From the time of the formation of the Yates Medical Society in 1823 down to the year 1880, a period of fifty-seven years, the organization of the society was kept active and never suffered to lapse or expire from want of interest on the part of its members, although there do appear to be years in which no records were preserved. The records disclose the membership of the society as it stood in 1870 as follows: Officers: Walter Wolcott, president; Alexander B. Sloane, vice-president; Guy L. Doubleday, secretary and treasurer; censors, Fletcher M. Hammond, William Wixom, Eben S. Smith, Guy L. Doubleday, Alexander B. Sloane; delegate to State Medical Society, William Oliver; members, John Hatmaker, Walter Wolcott, Israel Chissom, Winans Bush, William Wixom, William Oliver, F. M. Hammond, Guy L. Doubleday, Eben S. Smith, George W. Brundage, J. I. Denman, Alexander B. Sloane, Byron Spence, Ashbel R. Otis, Robert P. Bush, John D. Wolcott, Job S. Stevens, G. Z. Dimmock, Wemple H. Crane, Frank H. Smith.

In 1880, at a meeting held October 26th, there was a practical, or at

least a partial, re-organization of the society. The names of physicians present on that occasion are nowhere disclosed on the record, but at that time the name was changed from the Yates Medical Society to the "Medical Society of the County of Yates." At this time it was also provided that the officers of the society should consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and three censors, "together with such other officers as a majority of the members present at any annual meeting should determine." It was also provided that the annual meeting should be held on the first Tuesday of June of each year in the village of Penn Yan, at which time the election of officers by ballot to hold for the ensuing year should take place. The semi-annual meeting was provided to be held on the second Tuesday of January of each year in the village of Penn Yan.

*Presidents and Secretaries.*—1823, president, Joshua Lee; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1824, president, Andrew F. Oliver; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1825, president, Andrew F. Oliver; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1826, president, John L. Cleveland; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1827, president, Enos Barnes; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1828, president, Elisha Doubleday; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1829, president, Anthony Gage; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1830, president, John Warner; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1831, president, Uri Judd; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1832, president, John Hatmaker; secretary, Andrew F. Oliver. 1833, president, Walter Wolcott; secretary, B. N. Wisner. 1834, president, B. N. Wisner; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1835, president, James Heermans; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1836, president, Elisha Doubleday; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1837, president, O. P. Wolcott; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1838, president, Elisha Doubleday; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1839, president, Joshua Lee; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1840, president, Henry P. Sartwell; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1841, president, Henry Spence; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1842, president, Winans Bush; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1843, president, Elisha Doubleday; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1844, president, Elisha Doubleday; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1845, president, Walter Wolcott; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1846, president, H. P. Sartwell; secretary, John Hatmaker. There is no record of officers elected between 1846 and 1851. 1851, president, Elisha Double-



day; secretary, John Hatmaker. 1852, president, H. P. Sartwell; secretary, William Oliver. 1854, president, Henry Spence; secretary, William Oliver. 1855, president, Andrew F. Oliver; secretary, William Oliver. 1856, president, Andrew F. Oliver; secretary, William Oliver. There is no record of officers elected between 1856 and 1868. 1868, president, John Hatmaker; secretary, Winans Bush. 1869, president, John Hatmaker; secretary, William Oliver. 1870, president, Walter Wolcott; secretary, Guy L. Doubleday. 1871, president, Walter Wolcott; secretary, John D. Wolcott. 1872, president, A. B. Sloane; secretary, John D. Wolcott. 1873, president, A. B. Sloane; secretary, John D. Wolcott. 1874, president, Eben S. Smith; secretary, G. W. Brundage. 1875, president, Eben S. Smith; secretary, G. W. Brundage. 1876, president, William Oliver; secretary, G. W. Brundage. 1877, president, William Oliver; secretary, Charles Woodward. There is no record of officers elected between 1877 and 1885. 1885, president, B. L. Holt; secretary, C. M. Van Dyke. 1887, president, John M. Maloney; secretary, C. M. Van Dyke. 1888, president, N. L. Lusk; secretary, C. M. Van Dyke. 1889, president, B. L. Holt; secretary, C. C. Harvey. 1890, president, B. L. Holt; secretary, N. L. Lusk. 1891, president, B. L. Holt; secretary, N. L. Lusk.

*Members of the Society in 1891* — B. L. Holt, N. L. Lusk, William Oliver, William A. Oliver, J. M. Maloney, C. B. Stone, C. M. Van Dyke, M. E. Babcock, C. C. Harvey, Job S. Stevens, George W. Brundage, W. A. Carson, O. E. Newman, J. M. Waddell, A. R. Otis, S. Lott, B. B. Havens, E. S. Smith, M. E. Babcock, I. E. Ottoway.

On the 29th of May, 1880, the legislature of the State of New York, at the urgent request of the medical profession throughout the State, passed an act for the especial protection of the legitimate profession against quackery. By the provisions of that act it became the imperative duty of all practicing physicians to make oath before the county clerk of the county in which they designed to practice, stating date and place of birth, and the authority under which they presumed to practice physic and surgery. This registration was required to be made before October 1st following the passage of the act. And the further provision was made that all persons thereafter becoming physicians should likewise procure their registration before practicing in any

county of this State. This law still stands, but has been only partially complied with, and any persons practicing physic and surgery without having so registered are liable to penalty under the act.

*Physicians Registered in the Yates County Clerk's Office.*—Cyrus C. Harvey, University of Buffalo; Job S. Stevens, Medical College of Geneva; Byron H. Ovenshire, Department of Medicine and Surgery at Ann Arbor, Mich.; Benjamin L. Holt, College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York city; Amelia A. Christie, Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania; Schuyler Lott, Albany Medical College; A. R. Otis, Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, Pa.; W. A. Wilson, Albany Medical College; William Oliver, Geneva Medical College; Carlton B. Stone, Detroit Medical College; W. H. Hawley, Central Medical College of Rochester, N. Y., license from the New York State "Eclectic Medical Society," and by diploma granted by the Genesee Valley District Medical Society; Francis E. Murphy, Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa.; John C. Mills, Syracuse Medical College; O. E. Newman, Cleveland Medical College; Richard R. C. Bordwell, Buffalo Medical College; Anna L. Truman, New York Free Medical College for Women, New York city; J. M. Waddell, Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York city; D. M. Smith, Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York city; H. W. Smith, Western Homœopathic College, Cleveland, Ohio; Elisha D. Smith, Homœopathic Medical Societies of the counties of Ontario and Yates; Nathan L. Lusk, Medical University of Buffalo; George Z. Noble, Union Homœopathic Medical Academy of the State of New York; William F. Jolley, Eclectic Medical College, Pennsylvania; J. Le Van Bender, University of Buffalo; William H. Hawley, jr., Eclectic Medical Society of the Thirteenth Senatorial District, auxiliary to the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York; John M. Maloney, Georgetown College, Georgetown, D. C.; Mulford Skinner, Castleton Medical College, Vermont, and by license from the Steuben Medical Society of the State of New York; Alex de Borra, Medical University of Copenhagen, Denmark; James C. Wightman, American Medical College, Cincinnati, Ohio; William Wixom, Geneva Medical College; George M. Barber, Eclectic Medical Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio; George W. Brundage, Geneva Medical College; Alexander B. Sloane, Geneva Medical College; F. L. H. Willis,

Homœopathic Medical College of New York city; Henry Hill, Medical Department of the University of Vermont, Burlington; William A. Carson, Albany Medical College; Eben S. Smith, Geneva Medical College; John Cole, Medical Department of the University of Buffalo; Frank B. Seelye, Buffalo Medical College; Henry R. Barnes, Ontario County Medical Society; Frank H. Smith, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa.; Wemple H. Crane, Board of Censors of the Yates County Medical Society; Edward P. Stuart, University of the city of New York, Department of Medicine; W. Wallace Barden, Homœopathic Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa.; Samuel Hart Wright, Geneva Medical College; A. B. Chissom, Medical Society of the county of Yates; Herman W. Perry; Byron B. Havens, Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York city; Henry P. Shove, Hygieo-Therapeutic College, New York city; Clark Otis, Hahnemann Medical College, Missouri; Carl B. Smith, University of Buffalo; George L. Preston, Eclectic Medical College of New York city; Lucius W. How, Medical Department of Columbia College of the city of New York; William C. Allen, Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa.; Edgar D. Seaman, Medical Department of Columbia College of New York; Emory A. Eiken, Miami Medical College of Ohio; Byron Clark, Medical Department of the University of Maryland and College of Physicians, Baltimore; Ira E. Smith, Schuyler County Medical Society; Clarence I. Dodge, New York Eclectic Medical College, New York city; William A. Oliver, Buffalo University of Medicine; Marcus E. Babcock, University of Buffalo; Adelbert de Roy Haines, Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, Ohio; Franklin B. Smith, Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, Ill.; Asbury H. Baker, University of Buffalo; Eugene O. Bardwell, University of Buffalo; Charles M. Van Dyke, Starling Medical College, Columbus, Ohio; William F. Coburn, Chicago Homœopathic Medical College; E. C. Parke, New York Homœopathic College; John E. Ottoway, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Manville M. Macdonald, Medical Department of the University of the city of New York; Wade Botsford, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore, Md.; Charles O. Payne, Homœopathic Hospital College, Cleveland, Ohio; Peter H. Reynolds, Syracuse Medical College; William W. Skinner, University of Buffalo; J. Arden Conley, Eclectic

Medical College, New York city ; W. C. Freeman, Trinity College, Ontario ; Samuel D. Rhodes, College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York city ; Louis C. Millspaugh, Medical Department of University of the city of New York ; Albert Ellison, University of the city of New York ; Edwin J. Morgan, Harvard Medical College of Boston, Mass. ; Isaac N. Willard, Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York city ; John T. Culhane, Medical Department of Niagara University ; Michael McGovern, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore, Md. ; Charles E. Doubleday, Medical School of Syracuse University ; Ellsworth H. Noble, New York Homœopathic Medical College ; Hiram G. Mace, College of Medicine and Surgery of Michigan University ; Jay H. Wilkin, University of Buffalo ; John E. McTaggart, University of Buffalo ; Gideon Carl Fordham, University of Vermont ; Ira R. Ballou, Baltimore Medical College ; C. F. Farlin, College of Therapeutics of Massachusetts.

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## CHAPTER XIV.

### THE PRESS OF YATES COUNTY.

THE prevalence of the country newspaper is a good sign. Not even the public school is a more sure indicator of the diffusion of general information and the desire for the growth of intelligence. The newspaper—the country newspaper—is an American idea. Nowhere else in the world does every hamlet have its mouthpiece and every village its instructor and guide. It may be that the country newspaper in America is not all that it should be, but notwithstanding its faults it aids in the development of the national mind and is useful in an hundred ways.

Yates County has been no exception to the rule which has given every locality its newsgatherer. Five years before the county's autonomy was assured the first journal was established. Abraham H. Bennett was its proprietor and he called his venture the *Penn Yan Herald*. A glance over its pages reveals the fact that country newspaper work



has changed since that day. Now the editor devotes his pages to local news. Then he neglected that department and gave each week a general *résumé* of the world's news as far as that was possible. And the cause of that is evident. In 1818 Penn Yan was a village through which the stages ran once or twice a week on their way from Geneva to Bath, and each stage left here a newspaper or two for the wealthier residents. The *Herald* copied this news matter and disseminated it throughout the county. Now dwellers in every town in the county have the city dailies delivered to them each morning. They do not depend on the weeklies for general news. Thus every year for the past half century the weekly newspaper has had to devote itself more and more to local matters. That has now come to be its almost sole occupation.

In 1820 Bennett changed the name of his journal to the Penn Yan *Democrat*, and this title it has since retained. In 1835 Alfred Reed was associated with him in its management; in 1847 he assumed entire control. Darius Ogden bought the establishment in 1850 and was its real proprietor for many years afterward, till Eli McConnell purchased it and paid off the liens that existed. Reuben Spicer was editor in 1853 and George D. A. Bridgman in 1857. For many years, from 1865 till 1888, Eli McConnell was proprietor. Then the newspaper became the property of the *Democrat* Printing Company. Walter B. Sheppard now owns the controlling interest. Through all the vicissitudes of its career the *Democrat* has supported more or less ably the political party whose name it bears. It has thus an honorable record for consistency and devotion to principle which entitle it to credit, and under its new editor gives promise of greater excellence and wider influence than it has ever before enjoyed.

Till the establishment of the *Democratic Whig* in 1837, by William Child, the *Democrat* had the field largely to itself. Its chief competitor had been the *Yates County Republican*, established by E. J. Fowle in 1824 and continued for ten years. In 1834 John Remmich bought it, changed its name to the *Enquirer*, and two years later it quietly died and was forgotten. The *Republican*, however, in Mr. Fowle's palmy days, was a good and substantial country weekly. It perhaps would not seem so now, for there were but five columns of reading matter on each of its four pages, and these columns were largely filled with

advertising matter. But sixty years ago publishing a country paper was a tiresome and expensive business. The cost of the white news paper on which it was printed was about four times what it is at present. All or nearly all news paper was then made of rags and cost more to manufacture than the better grades of correspondence paper now do. Everyone knows, too, that in those days there were no power or cylinder presses in country newspaper offices. The old "Washington" press, worked by hand lever, was the only kind in use.

The year 1833 was a prolific one in the newspaper world of Yates County. A man named Gilbert started a periodical called the *Western Star* and Thomas H. Bassett established another, the *Miscellany*. Four newspapers in the Penn Yan of that day must have rendered the profit of each rather precarious; at all events three of them shortly died, and it was not till 1837 that a printer was found of sufficient temerity to establish a successor.

In that year was begun the publication of the newspaper which, take one thing with another, has been the most prosperous, best known, and widely read of all that have been produced in Penn Yan. William Child was the printer and the *Democratic Whig* was the newspaper. In 1839 it passed into the control of Nicholas B. Suydam and for six years he was its publisher. Then, in 1845, Rodney L. Adams assumed control. He made the newspaper a force in the political world and in 1852 sold it to Cleveland & Look. Four years later Mr. Look retired and Stafford C. Cleveland assumed entire control. Of all the printers who have graced Yates County with their presence he was easily *corypheus*. Of large statue and intelligent appearance Mr. Cleveland combined great strength of mind with an independent character, and soon won the respect and confidence of the people. His newspaper was changed in name upon his accession and became the *Yates County Chronicle*, a title it still retains. In 1881 Mr. Cleveland retired from the editorial position he had so long occupied and since that time the *Chronicle* has had two or three editors. Malcolm D. Mix was manager till 1883. Then Steven B. Ayres was editor till 1886. Samuel P. Burrill next filled the editorial seat till 1889. At that time the present proprietor, De Witt C. Ayres, purchased the newspaper, assumed its management, and has evidently settled down in the sanctum for a life-

long occupation. At present the *Chronicle* is the most widely circulated newspaper in the county and deserves the prosperity that attends it.

In 1844 Henry L. Winants began the publication of a journal called the *Democratic Organ*. After two years of effort the task of making it thrive was abandoned. Not disheartened by this failure Rodney L. Adams started a daily called the *Telegraph*, and while its publication was continued longer than might have been expected it succumbed in six months. This failure stopped the publication of new journals in Penn Yan for twenty years.

But meanwhile Dundee, the second village of the county, had an attack of the newspaper fever, and under the guidance of Gifford J. Booth the *Record* was first printed in 1844. This little newspaper has had a checkered career. In 1847 it was published by a man named Hoagland; then it passed into the control of John Diefendorf. Next, in 1857, it was owned by D. S. Bruner and then was edited by James Westcott. After his death the *Record* came near extinction, but was finally revived by two nephews of Mr. Westcott, sold by them to a syndicate of Democratic politicians, and finally in 1890 was bought by several influential prohibitionists and is now published as a temperance newspaper. Today it probably has a greater circulation than it ever before enjoyed. From the *Record* the name has been changed to the *Home Advocate*.

G. D. A. Bridgman, who had sold the *Democrat* in 1865, began the next year the publication of the Penn Yan *Express*. In 1869 it was edited by Thomas Robinson. In 1870 Mr. Bridgman returned to the editorial chair and in 1872 the journal passed under the control of the present proprietor, Reuben A. Scofield. In his hands it has met with great success. The politics have been Republican, of which party Mr. Scofield is a zealous partisan. The newspaper has so prospered that today its circulation is second only to that of the *Yates County Chronicle*, and its owner has through it become well known throughout the county.

The only other newspaper deserving of extended notice is the *Observer*, which is printed at Dundee. It was established in 1878 by Eugene Vreeland, its present proprietor. At first and till 1882 it was independent in politics, but at that time it joined the Republican party and has ever

since been an advocate of its doctrines. Its owner, Mr. Vreeland, is a young man of pleasing manners and some ability, and is well regarded by his neighbors and friends.

But of all the journals which have had their incipency in our county the best known in other localities, the most unprofitable, and the shortest lived was the *Penn Yan Mystery*. It was a mystery indeed. For many years two writers, Leon and Harriet Lewis, had made Penn Yan their home. Their books, and those of Mrs. Lewis in particular, while not indicative of the highest creative power, still were readable and had great vogue among the class who perused with delight the old New York *Ledger* and kindred sheets. Mrs. Lewis died, and unsatisfied with his notoriety the survivor undertook the task of founding a weekly newspaper which should bring him fame and possibly fortune too. It was not an ill-advised scheme. A tremendous edition of the first number was sent out on January 4, 1879. It was read and liked. From New Hampshire to Alabama subscriptions and communications flowed in. Had the editor been a different man he might have succeeded. But as it was, discouraged by his financial condition or losing pluck, ere the second edition appeared he left Penn Yan between two days and has never returned.

A word should be said, in passing, with regard to the *Vineyardist*. This is a bi-weekly, began in 1887 by John H. Butler and Samuel P. Burrill as an exponent of the grape interests on Seneca and Keuka Lakes. Within its limited scope it does good work and is well thought of by its subscribers. Mr. Butler is now the sole proprietor.

The newspaper serves more than one purpose. Primarily it is to disseminate knowledge of the day's events, but in another way and as the record of times gone by and partially forgotten it is still more valuable. Of all the sources whence the local historian draws his materials it is the best and fullest. Ten years or fifty years after being printed and cast aside it is some day resurrected from its resting place and shows as a faithful mirror the past that is gone forever. And, strange as it may seem, the parts least thought of by the average reader as he looks it over and grumbles, may be, at its brevity and lack of wit, have become the most interesting of all. The advertising with which the retailer has blazoned forth his trade is transmuted into the truest record of



the time. Here one may learn what once the people ate, what they wore, and with what they passed their leisure hours. Set forth in printed page is a record as to whether men drove in coach and four or ambled through the woods on horseback. Where they ground their grain, as to the wear of poplin and muslin and calico, as to what drugs they poisoned themselves with, and whether women decorated their back hair with silver combs—all here comes to light. The "notice" by which some farmer describes a runaway slave tells us that he owned one, and when another desires to hire laborers at \$12 per month we are not at a loss in discovering the rate of wages. Thus, as in other lines of endeavor, the work that the printer does lives after him, re-awakening in after years a knowledge of events that else would be forgotten.

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## CHAPTER XV.

### ORIGIN, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF YATES COUNTY.<sup>1</sup>

"We live in an age of light and knowledge."

THE rise and progress of the school system of the State of New York form an interesting chapter in its history. The wisdom of the fathers in laying broad and deep foundations in all that pertains to intellectual and moral culture is manifest in the school history of the Empire State. Thanks to a wise public policy the interests of the schools have not for a moment been lost sight of, but their value as an important factor in the development and perpetuity of our institutions have increased and grown just in proportion as the general public have been developed by culture and educational privileges.

The circumstances which have most influence in the happiness of mankind, the changes of manners and morals, the transition of communities from poverty to wealth, from ignorance to knowledge,—these are

<sup>1</sup> By Hon. George R. Cornwell, of Penn Yan.



Eng. by F. G. Kneass, N.Y.

George R. Cornell



for the most part noiseless revolutions. Their progress is rarely indicated by what historians are pleased to call important events. They are not achieved by armies nor enacted by the law-making powers; they are sanctioned by no treatise and recorded in no archives. They are carried on in every school, in every church, in every society for mutual benefit and improvement, and in every cultured and well ordered household.

In the study of the important events of the world's history the places where these events have culminated, or in which valorous deeds have been accomplished, are second in interest only to these events; they "remain hallowed for all time." The student of history will search in vain for a more hallowed or sacred spot (except it may be the sanctuary or the home circle) than the school-room. "How beautiful and pleasant are thy memories!" The value of good schools cannot be overestimated; and it has been very truthfully said: "The public schools are the bulwarks of our institutions; the palladium of our liberties." Right here let me say it is impossible to have good schools without faithful, conscientious, educated teachers. The public realize more and more the value of good instructors. The boy of today is the man of tomorrow. Time is more than money—absolute unrest is the order of the day. Our schools must keep pace with the general development of the times.

In the schools of the county of Yates there has been for more than eighty years a noiseless progression toward all that is good and high and noble in manhood, and in which ignorance has been supplanted by knowledge. The past ten years show a marked improvement over the twenty years preceding, and still the necessities and demands were never so great as now. This shows a healthful condition, and there is no question but that our schools will continue to grow better and better so long as there is desire.

It is the purpose of this chapter to give a general review of the school system of the State in connection with the public schools of the county of Yates, including a more detailed account of the several academies and institutions of learning in the several towns as well as a more particular history of the schools of the village of Penn Yan. In the account of the schools of the county at large this article must necessarily



be brief, because data concerning them is meager and often unreliable. More attention, however, will be given to the principal institutions of learning as the information respecting them is better preserved and more readily procured. The facts recorded here are stated upon the authority of the State and county records, or, when because of the careless manner in which many of these have been kept, or from the nature of the fact stated, nothing could be there found, the most authoritative attainable information has been sought. It is proper to state also that many facts here presented are from the pen of the late Hon. S. C. Cleveland, for many years the editor of the *Yates County Chronicle* and who was also publisher of a history of Yates County, and from other valuable records, the writer claiming no credit except as a compiler and gatherer of facts.

The common school system of the State of New York may be traced to a law passed by the legislature of 1812, which provided for the division of the State into school districts. As early as 1795, however, Gov. George Clinton, in his message that year to the legislature, recommended to the people "the establishment of common schools throughout the State," and an annual appropriation of \$50,000 for five years was made by the legislature of 1795 for the purpose of public instruction. The enactments in relation to public instruction were revised and consolidated in the general law of 1864, which was several times amended until 1867, when the free school system of the State was fairly established. It may be proper to mention that in the early history of the schools of the State much inactivity was manifested, and in some quarters the movement was met with positive opposition.

In 1874 there were 11,299 school districts in the State and 18,605 teachers. In 1890 there were 11,675 school-houses in the State and 31,703 teachers employed. The value of school-houses and sites in this State in 1868 was \$16,450,485. In 1874 it had advanced to \$29,216,149 and in 1890 to \$41,606,735. The total receipts for school purposes for the year ending July 25, 1890, were \$20,473,660.92. The expenditures were a little less. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Andrew S. Draper, in his annual report to the legislature, session of 1892, says:

The total number of pupils in the schools during the past year was

1,281,039. The whole number of teachers was 31,982. The amount of money paid them was \$11,012,986.43. The average weekly wages of teachers in towns was \$8.27, in cities \$17.89. There are 12,072 school houses in the state, 45 of logs. The average cost of educating each child in the state at large has been \$26 41. The cost to each individual of the State was \$2.66. The superintendent is of the opinion that the safety of the commonwealth depends upon the enactment of an effective compulsory education law. There are eleven normal schools in operation in the State, with a total expense last year of \$227,686.81.

In 1890 there were in operation in the State eighteen colleges of arts and sciences for gentlemen, nine for ladies, and four for ladies and gentlemen, with a total attendance of 7,446 during the year. The total value of college property for arts and sciences was \$8,485,868.45.

There are also within the bounds of the State five schools of law, sixteen schools of medicine, four schools of pharmacy, three polytechnic schools, nine schools of theology, and eight schools of special departments. From the best obtainable information there are at present 8,500,000 children in the elementary schools of our country, 275,000 pupils in the secondary schools, and 60,000 students in the colleges. There can be no question but that our schools are assuming proportions to which they are entitled.

#### SCHOOLS OF YATES COUNTY.

The common schools of Yates County, including the higher academic institutions of learning, are among the very best of their class in the State. The school statistics show that Yates is not behind her sister counties in all that pertains to good schools. By the census of 1890 Yates County had a population of 21,001. By the School Commissioner's Report, dated June 30, 1891, there were in Yates County 5,546 children between the ages of five and twenty one years; there were 127 teachers employed and 4,121 scholars attending school during the year ending as above.

Number of volumes in school libraries, . . . . .	3,715
Number of school-houses in Yates County, . . . . .	108
Value of school libraries, exclusive of Penn Yan, . . . . .	\$2,772 00
Value of school-houses and sites, . . . . .	\$107,240 00

Assessed valuation of property in the school districts of Yates County, . . . . .	\$11,702,733 00
There was expended for school purposes in Yates County during the year ending July 25, 1891, . . . . .	\$45,502 20
The State school tax paid by Yates County in 1890 was . . . . .	\$12,519 69
The common school fund received from the State by Yates County for 1890, exclusive of Regents' fund, was . . . . .	\$17,111 12

In Yates County are 103 school districts and nine parts of districts, two union free school districts, and one school district organized by special act. The school districts are divided among the nine towns composing the county as follows: Barrington, 12; Benton, 12; Italy, 11; Jerusalem, 19; Middlesex, 8; Milo, 12; Potter, 12; Starkey, 11; and Torrey, 6. The Penn Yan Union School District, organized by special act, is formed by a portion of the towns of Milo, Jerusalem, and Benton. There is one union free school district in the town of Potter. In the town of Starkey is Starkey Seminary, besides one preparatory school chartered by the Regents of the State University. Keuka College is located in the town of Jerusalem. The school-houses in Yates County are as a rule in first-class condition, with improved seats, and are furnished with all the appliances that are used in modern schools.

The Teachers Institute held regularly each year, together with the examinations held by the county commissioners under the rules of the Board of Regents of the State, have done much for the improvement of the schools. Naturally the more prominent and better equipped of the schools in the county are the Penn Yan Academy, Keuka College, Starkey Seminary, and the schools located in the following places, viz.: Branchport, Dresden, Dundee, Italy Hollow, Benton Center, Potter Center, Barrington, Middlesex Center, and Rushville. Of some of these institutions of learning a more particular mention will be made. Since 1859 the schools of each county in the State have been more particularly under the care and supervision of a county superintendent or, as otherwise called, school commissioner. The school commissioners of Yates County have been as follows: Henry A. Bruner, Schuyler Southerland, Bradford S. Wixom, Harlan P. Bush, George P. Lord, Joseph W. Brown, William F. Van Tuyl, James A. Thayer, and Llewellyn J. Barden, the present school commissioner. All of these have performed valiant and loyal service and have done much for the lasting good of the schools of the county.

## PENN YAN SCHOOLS.

The Penn Yan Union School District was established by Chapter 715 of the laws of 1857. By said act the following named persons: Levi O. Dunning, Benedict W. Franklin, Ebenezer B. Jones, Jeremiah S. Jillett, Darius A. Ogden, Charles C. Sheppard, Martin Spencer, Daniel W. Streeter, and George Wagener, were constituted a corporation by the name of the "Board of Education for the Village of Penn Yan." The corporation, upon its organization April 30, 1857, took possession of the schools of the district, consisting of the Head street and Maiden lane school property. The erection of the Penn Yan Academy was soon after commenced and was completed during the summer of 1859, and opened the 1st of September of that year. Its first catalogue was issued in the spring of 1860. The institution is described in that year's catalogue as follows:

"The academy is located on Main street, near the center of the village, and has ample grounds, neatly graded and ornamented with shade trees. The building is a new brick edifice two stories high, ninety feet long, and sixty feet wide. It contains two large school-rooms, five recitation-rooms, a chapel, laboratory, library, and music-room. They are heated throughout by furnaces, thoroughly ventilated, and in the selection and arrangement of desks, seats, etc., every modern improvement has been carefully consulted. In its internal arrangement it is regarded as a model. The institution is furnished with a superior set of philosophical and chemical apparatus, to which additions are constantly made as circumstances demand; and by a full course of experiments and familiar lectures every facility is afforded for the prosecution of the natural sciences. A perfect skeleton, a complete set of charts, models, etc., furnish good advantages also for the study of physiology. The library, accessible to all students, is open every Friday afternoon. The department of music is under the care of an efficient and experienced teacher. Drawing, painting, declamations, and written exercises, private and public examinations will receive especial care and attention."

The academy building is now (1892) heated by steam, with more perfect ventilation, and many improvements have been added. The first officers of the Board of Education were: Ebenezer B. Jones, president; Daniel W. Streeter, secretary; Oliver Stark, treasurer; Morris Earle, collector.

The first faculty of the Penn Yan Academy was Rev. Otis L. Gibson, A.B., principal, professor of ancient language; Richard Green, B.S., professor of natural sciences and mathematics; Sherman Morse, teacher in English branches; Miss Frances A. Sweet, preceptress, teacher of



modern language and *belles-lettres*; Miss Susan R. Gibson, assistant; Miss Sophia Travis, Miss Jennie M. Gibson, teachers in junior department; Miss Harriet Hopkins, teacher of vocal and instrumental music; Richard Green, librarian. The enrollment at the academy during the first year (1859-60) was 126 gentlemen and 167 ladies; total, 293. The average enrollment at the academy during the past thirty years has varied somewhat, averaging about 360, and some years considerably higher.

The presidents of the Board of Education of the Penn Yan Union School District have been as follows: Ebenezer B. Jones, 1859-61; Charles C. Sheppard, 1861-63; Benedict W. Franklin, 1863-65; Charles C. Sheppard, 1865-73; Darius A. Ogden, 1873-76; Levi O. Dunning, 1876-77; Stafford C. Cleveland, 1877-80; Darius A. Ogden, 1880-89; Benjamin L. Hoyt, 1889-91; George R. Cornwell, 1891-92.

The following gentlemen have served as secretaries of the board: Daniel W. Streeter, 1859-60; Jeremiah S. Jillett, 1860-63; Lyman Munger, 1863-65; Jeremiah S. Jillett, 1865-66; Levi O. Dunning, 1866-73; John T. Knox, 1873-74; Benjamin L. Hoyt, 1874-77; George R. Youngs, 1877-80; Reuben A. Scofield, 1880-82; Fred S. Armstrong, 1882-84; George R. Youngs, 1884-92.

*Members of the Board of Education.*—Ebenezer B. Jones, 1857-73; Charles C. Sheppard, 1857-74; Benedict W. Franklin, 1857-74; Darius A. Ogden, 1857-89; Levi O. Dunning, 1857-78; George Wagener, 1857, 1870, 1871, 1882; Jeremiah S. Jillett, 1857, 1872; Martin Spencer, 1857, 1860; Daniel W. Streeter, 1857, 1861; Lyman Munger, 1862, 1867; John H. Lapham, 1863, 1870; Seymour Tracey, 1869, 1872; William S. Briggs, 1870, 1874; John M. Latimer, 1873-76; John T. Knox, 1873-79; Stafford C. Cleveland, 1874-84; William B. Sheldon, 1874, 1875; Samuel S. Ellsworth, 1875-78; John C. Scheetz, 1877-80; John P. Plaisted, 1877-80; Reuben A. Scofield, 1880-89; Fred S. Armstrong, 1880-85; Morgan H. Smith, 1885-88.

The present members of the Board are: Benjamin L. Hoyt, 1871; George R. Cornwell, 1873; John S. Sheppard, 1876; George R. Youngs, 1877-80, 1882; Perley P. Curtis, 1880; John T. Andrews, 2d, 1884; Silas Kinne, 1888; Edson Potter, 1888; Steven B. Ayres, 1889.

*Officers of the Board, 1892.*—George R. Cornwell, president; George R. Youngs, secretary; Morris F. Sheppard, treasurer; E. Lewis Jacobus, collector.

The following have been the principals of the Penn Yan Academy since the founding of that institution of learning: Rev. Otis L. Gibson, 1859-61; Willard P. Gibson, A.M., 1861-63; Winsor Scofield, A.M.,

1863-66; Cicero M. Hutchins, A.M., 1866-68; Rufus S. Green, A.B., 1868-69; John T. Knox, A.M., 1869-70; Samuel D. Barr, A.M., 1870-72; Burr Lewis, A.B., 1872-73; Rodolphus C. Briggs, A.B., 1873-75; Francis D. Hodgson, A.M., 1875-83; Henry White Callahan, A.M., 1883-90; F. Theodore Shultz, A.M., 1890.

*Preceptresses*.—Frances A. Sweet, 1859-60; Mary E. Clark, 1860-61; Susan R. Gibson, 1861-64; Louise F. Dana, 1864-67; Louise M. Randle, 1867-76; Helen M. Stark, Emma H. Murphey, 1876-79; Edith Van Dusen, 1879-80; Margaret A. Emerson, 1880-87; Louise J. Starkweather, 1887-91; Estella Mullholland, 1891.

Other teachers who have served in the academy acceptably, and have generally gone from Penn Yan to fill higher places, have been Richard Green, Sherman Morse, Robert P. Bush, James P. Harrington, Charles B. Shaw, Fred S. Armstrong, George E. Draper, Alson D. Chapman, Berlin H. Wright, Frank D. Van Deventer, Samuel Cornell, William H. Hermans, Fred W. Palmer, William F. Van Tuyl, and John W. Stewart.

Among the important and acceptable lady teachers of the academy have been Harriet L. Porter (now the wife of E. W. Mills), L. Belinda Porter, Sophia Travis (now the wife of our distinguished fellow citizen and institute conductor, Prof. Henry R. Sanford), Ceresa Sloan, Louise Bannister (now Mrs. Steven B. Ayres), Harriet Gleason (now Mrs. Peleg Gardner), Susan A. Longwell, Augusta M. Jones (now the wife of R. G. Kinner), Anna B. Delano, Annette Swarthout, Mrs. J. S. Reed, Laretta A. Ludlow, Mrs. Laura L. Woodward (wife of Dr. C. W. Woodward), Mrs. Sarah M. Butterfield, Mary B. Emory (now the wife of F. W. Steelman), Mrs. Sarah E. C. Thompson (now the wife of E. C. Kelsey), Sarah E. Kelsey (now the wife of Charles Stark), Lizzie B. Teall, Minnie I. Miller (now the wife of Henry W. Shearman), Libbie I. Coates, Helen W. Stark, Oda B. Bennett (now the wife of M. A. Leary, esq.), Mrs. C. W. Coffin, Mary A. Bennett, Abigail K. Wolcott (who occupies at present a position in the high school at Milwaukee, Wis., and is regarded as a teacher of great merit), Emma Wolcott (wife of Martin C. Stark), Sarah Hammond (wife of Morris F. Sheppard), Alice L. Patchin, Libbie W. Crane, Helen L. Whitaker (now the wife of Albert Brigden), Fannie J. Fraser, Della J. Waite (wife of John R. Clark), Kate M. Wickoff (now Mrs. James W. Russell), Theresa C. Hendrick, Helen C. Sav-

age, Nellie St. John (now the wife of Clinton W. Brooks), and Mrs. Susan Jones (widow of Joseph Jones). Nearly all these are entitled to especial mention as competent and faithful instructors, well deserving the love of the scholars and the commendation of the Board of Education and patrons of the school.

The teachers in the Penn Yan Union School District in 1892 are as follows: F. Theodore Shultz, A.M., principal, English classics, German, Latin; Estella Mullholland, preceptress, French, Latin, and Greek languages; Edwin S. Parsons, mathematics, history; Minnie E. Heermans, higher mathematics, natural sciences; Laura E. McDowell, principal of preparatory department; Cornelia M. Morrell, arithmetic, reading, methods of teaching; Maria Hammond, arithmetic, geography, reading; Mrs. Ella R. Walters, rhetoric, history and English literature; Mrs. Jennie W. Miller, principal of intermediate department; Alice Griggs, geography, reading, arithmetic, language lessons; Mary Bridgman, geography, reading, language lessons. Primary department.—Head street: Carrie I. Warfield, principal, and Sara J. Griffith. Maiden Lane: Mrs. Kate M. Russell, principal, Margaret Koehler, and M. Agnes Taylor. Chestnut street: Alice R. Wixson, principal, and Jennie M. Huson. Lake street: D. Lois Dean. Louise J. Starkweather, librarian.

The Penn Yan Academy was founded upon a system of permanence and sure support, and has been a prosperous school from the start. In its inception it was opposed by some of the leading men of the district, but since it became a fixed fact, and proved of such incalculable value to the village and country, opposition completely vanished and the timid ones and those who doubted its necessity and efficiency were loudest in its praises. From the hour it was completed and opened to the youth of the district and county its benefits have been so manifest, its blessings and benign influence so unceasingly showered upon all the people that at present all are agreed that upon the schools rests in a great measure the future of the district.

The exercises of the graduating class of the Penn Yan Academy for 1891 were held Thursday evening, June 25th, at the Sheppard Opera House in Penn Yan. The following address (showing the present condition of the schools) was delivered on that occasion by the president of the Board of Education, George R. Cornwell:

"It gives me great pleasure, in behalf of the Board of Education, to greet this company of young ladies, members of the class of '91, as honored graduates of Penn Yan Academy, and to extend to each and all of you our most hearty congratulations upon the successful completion of your studies, and for the high degree of scholarship attained. The academy diplomas about to be presented are a certificate and testimony that you have mastered and completed the course of study of our schools, and are a high honor in themselves, in that they tell of years of persistent application and faithful labor. The Regents' diplomas to which you are entitled and will hereafter receive are honors conferred by the State and entitles the holders to admission to its colleges without further examination. It is, no doubt, and should be a source of gratification to you that your labors have been crowned with success. The comparative few of the many who have attended our schools, privileged to claim these honors, show that they are only obtained by the severest ordeal and test. Your names will henceforth justly appear upon the honor roll of the academy. We sincerely hope and trust your achievements will lead to further efforts, and be but stepping stones, leading you on to still higher development and culture. To say we are glad for what you have accomplished does not fully express all we feel. In a certain sense we look upon you as our children; our graduates, born of our schools; are proud of you as such, and feel more than a common interest in your welfare. That you may live useful lives, imparting to others what of good you have received and reflect upon all with whom you may be associated the culture and attainments you have acquired, is certainly the sincere and ardent desire of not only the Board of Education, but also of your kind instructors and all your friends. Let me assure you you go forth from this your *alma mater* bearing with you its benediction and blessings. We quote the following appropriate beautiful lines:

"How beautiful is youth! how bright it gleams  
 With its illusions, aspirations, dreams!  
 Book of Beginnings, Story without End,  
 Each maid a heroine, and each man a friend!  
 All possibilities are in its hands,  
 No danger daunts it, and no foe withstands;  
 In its sublime audacity of faith,  
 'Be though removed!' it to the mountain saith,  
 And with ambitious feet, secure and proud,  
 Ascends the ladder leaning on the cloud,"

"Young ladies, we bid you godspeed, and that your future, so bright and promising, may be more than realized. To Professor Shultz and to all the instructors connected with our schools: Congratulations to you, and each of you, and words of commendation for faithful service and devotion are in order. That you have been loyal in your work, efficient, painstaking, industrious, ambitious to excel, that you have been diligent and energetic in the discharge of your duties, having the best interests of the schools at heart, all will admit. Your work has prospered in your hands. Well worthily have you filled the place of the long line of able, faithful, efficient instructors who have preceded you. Our regret at being obliged to part with the service of our esteemed preceptress is most sincere. Miss Starkweather will carry with her the love of the students, the good will of all with whom she has been so long associated. It is with regret also we part with two others of our valued teachers, viz.:



the Misses Smith and Hunter, both of whom have given eminent satisfaction in their departments of instruction. With these exceptions we understand the teachers for the past year have decided to remain. The value of good teachers cannot be overestimated. The public realizes and appreciates the wonderful influence of the teacher in shaping the future of the child. In this respect the teacher occupies the highest possible place in position and importance, a place worthy the highest ambition and devotion of the human mind. The teacher in a large sense takes the place of the parent, and in this day of bustle and excitement, whether it be right or wrong, the intellectual culture and even the moral training devolves more and more upon the teacher in our public schools. You are to be encouraged then in your labor of love; feeling and knowing your work is more enduring than marble, lasting as the human mind. That you may give well directed thought to all your plans, laying deep and broad foundations of intellectual and moral culture, upon which the minds of the children committed to your care may grow and thrive, is the sincere desire of all who love them and the future of our land.

"What more can be said than to reassure you of the faithful, sustaining co-operation of the Board of Education in all your future work? Congratulations are also in order for the public and especially for the patrons of our schools. The school interests of Penn Yan have not suffered during the past year. The splendid system of graduation, inaugurated by our former principal, Professor Callahan, found a success in all the departments and has been carefully adhered to by his able successor, Professor Shultz. Our corps of teachers, well equipped in their several departments, have not only been efficient and painstaking in all their work, as has been said, but the high character of our schools has not been allowed to degenerate. In some classes the advancement is almost phenomenal, showing better results than in the former history of the academy. Note the following extract from the Penn Yan *Express* of June 17th.

"The June Regents' examinations have been exceptionally good this year. In many cases complete classes passing the ordeal without a single failure. The number claimed as having passed is 309, making a total for the year of 713, being an increase over last year of 107."

"It is proper to state especial credit is due Professor Shultz for these excellent results. His untiring labor coupled with rare experience and tact have infused our schools with seeming new life and energy. The attendance during the past year has been uniformly good and shows an increase over former years from resident pupils.

"Penn Yan Academy especially, we are glad to say, is known far and wide as being one of the very best institutions of its class. Its rank is far higher than the average. In the year 1886 its position, as reported, was fortieth in the list of over 300 institutions of like character within the bounds of the State. The proportionate standing, we are informed, in 1891 is still better. Our academy should be the pride of our village. Its alumni are scattered up and down throughout the length and breadth of the land, pointing back to this as their *good angel* and always with affection. It may appropriately and truthfully be said: 'Her children rise up and call her blessed.'

"Thirty-two years have lapsed since the organization of our present system of schools. Our fathers who labored so hard to establish and consolidate the Union

School District of this village have gone. Their work remains and the grand results accomplished lives after them, a blessing for their children. Our thirty-second catalogue is about to be issued showing the work of the past year, also the curriculum and calendar for the next. During all the years of their existence the patrons of the schools have wonderfully sustained the board and teachers in their work. The board cannot but feel gratified for the many acts of confidence shown. We rejoice today in our blessed system of free education. Wise and beneficent laws are being constantly enacted for the care and maintenance of the schools. The culture and intelligence of the State is concentrated upon the best possible methods for their improvement. The signs are hopeful. The ambition of the parent to give his child better advantages than he possessed, and the desire for liberal education, seems the leading thought. Our schools cannot stand still; a generous public will not allow them to decline; progress is the sign of the hour, thanks to a wise public policy; generous thought and provision by the State is the rule. Let us do our part and see to it that our schools keep pace at least with the increasing needs of our district.

"In conclusion we extend cordial greetings and clasp hands with all who are striving to build up and foster institutions of learning—believing the greatest public diffusion of intelligence is for the general good; but while we are cordial with others we must not forget 'our own Mecca.' You are to be congratulated, fellow citizens, upon the great good accomplished by your schools in the past. Let us hope for their continued prosperity and usefulness."

A meeting of the Alumni Association was held at the Penn Yan Academy June 26, 1891. Steven B. Ayres, acting as chairman, called the Association to order and stated the object of the meeting. Miss Belle Dinturff was appointed acting secretary. The following representatives of ten classes were present:

William S. Cornwell, '81; Steven B. Ayres, '78; Dr. A. D. Haines, '82; Mrs. E. Haines, '82; Mrs. J. Miller, '82; Miss M. Mahar, '85; Miss B. Dinturff, '87; Miss E. Hunter, '88; Miss E. Cole, '88; Miss L. Hulett, '88; Miss N. Hadley, '89; Miss Frances E. Cornwell, '87, (now Mrs. Remsen M. Kinne); Miss D. Turner, '89; Miss L. Bridgman, '90; Miss A. Johnson, '90; Miss K. Moore, '90; D. Sprague, '90; Miss L. A. Hood, '91; Miss E. Fox, '91; Miss A. Mahar, '91; Mrs. Shutts, '80; Miss L. Agan, '82; Miss Julia Meehan, '82; Miss Kate Burns, '85; Thomas Spence, '86; Miss M. Sheppard, '87; Miss M. Bridgman, '88; Miss N. Fenner, '88; Miss K. Taylor, '88; Miss M. Koehler, '89; Miss D. Deane, '90; Miss S. Griffeth, '90; Miss A. Taylor, '90; William Gregory, '90; Miss N. May Scofield, '91; Miss M. G. Hobart, '91; Miss N. A. Carroll, '91; Miss J. A. Scofield, '91; Miss K. Earley, '91.

A committee on constitution was appointed, consisting of Thomas Spence, Miss M. Sheppard, Mrs. J. Miller, Miss L. Hood, and Miss B. Dinturff. The officers for the ensuing year are: President, Steven B. Ayres; vice-presidents, Miss Kate Taylor, Mrs. J. Miller, Miss N. May

Schofield ; secretary, Miss B. Dinturff ; treasurer, Miss E. Cole ; executive committee, Dr. A. D. Haines, Miss M. Hunter, Miss L. Agan, Miss L. Hulett, and W. Gregory. After informal discussion on various topics the following banquet committee was appointed : Misses K. Burns, B. Dinturff, K. Moore, D. Sprague, L. Covell.

#### EARLY SCHOOLS OF PENN YAN.

Tradition says that the first school in Penn Yan was taught by Ruth Pritchard, who died in 1816. She is said to have been a rare good teacher for that day, and among her varied accomplishments was her very fine handwriting. The first building remembered as being used for purposes of instruction within the present limits of the village of Penn Yan stood on the southeast corner of the present academy lot. When this school-house was erected cannot be determined, but it was probably built about 1812, as it was considered an old building as early as 1822. Public worship was at that time held in this school-house by the members of the Presbyterian denomination in Penn Yan and vicinity, and religious services continued to be held there until the completion of their new church in 1824. Among the first who taught in this edifice were John L. Lewis, Dr. William Cornwell, Gordon Badger, a Mr. Scofield, John Smith, and Jason Andrews.

The next school-house, which was of brick, was located on the west side of Liberty street and nearly opposite the present Penn Yan Academy. The following were the more prominent of those who taught in this school : Jerome Corey (assisted by Achsa A. Cornwell, afterward Mrs. J. S. Glover), Emily Cornwell, Hannah Benedict (afterward the wife of James Miller), Henry C. Wheeler, a Mr. Wilkinson, and Adolphus B. Kneeland. The old brick school-house was succeeded by the present edifice on Head street, which was erected about 1843. Among the earlier teachers in the Head street school were Richard Taylor, William Augustus Coleman, Henry A. Bruner (afterward school commissioner of Yates County), Sherman Morse, Charles Edson, Henry M. Stewart, and Caroline L. Cornwell as assistant of Sherman Morse and later as sole teacher of the school. (She afterward became Mrs. John D. Wolcott.) Salina Easton was also a teacher of rare merit in the Head street school. Richard Taylor, above mentioned, was justly eminent in

his calling. He was wonderfully enthusiastic in his chosen profession and deserves the plaudit of "well done." Among those who have later taught in this building are Mrs. C. W. Coffin, Lizzie B. Teall, Lillian M. Gridley (now the wife of George S. Sheppard), and Maria Hammond, the daughter of the late Dr. Fletcher M. Hammond.

In 1824 a school-house was built near the new "Yates County Malt-House" on Seneca street. The school was a large one and did good service until the erection, in 1842, of the present Maiden lane school-house. Among the teachers who were in the original school-house (on what is now known as Seneca street) were Selden Chadwick, Jethro Bonney, and Benjamin L. Hoyt, the latter of whom also for many years taught several very successful schools in the town of Milo, and has been a continuous member of the Board of Education for more than twenty years and is at present the oldest member in service.

Joseph Bloomingdale was the first principal of the Maiden lane school, which had a large attendance from the start, and at which many of the most prominent men and women in the county were educated. Howard R. Miller afterward taught in this school with great success, assisted by Miss A. Jocelyn, whom he subsequently married. They are both living at present on Staten Island near New York city. A more congenial, well meaning couple would be hard to find. Howard R. Miller and his wife were respected and beloved by the entire community and did a work of lasting good.

Especially worthy of mention among the other teachers of the Maiden lane school are Harris Cole, Asa F. Countryman, John W. Stewart, E. Herman Latimer, Jane Stark (now the wife of C. V. Bush), Eliza M. Casey, and Prof. Henry R. Sanford, at present one of the best known and most superior teachers in the State. In former years Emma Heermans (afterward Mrs. William D. Squier) was a teacher here, as was also Mary Husted and a number of others, nearly all of whom did excellent service in the several departments of the school. The district was No. 12 in the old series. The more recent teachers are Rose Longwell (now the wife of Thomas M. Markland), Kate M. Wyckoff (now Mrs. James W. Russell), and Coralyn Chapman.

Another district which was absorbed by the Penn Yan Union School District was District No. 9 at the foot of Lake Keuka. Van Rensselaer



Vorce, according to tradition, taught the first school here. Samuel V. Miller was also for several years a teacher there, and was afterward school inspector and the first town superintendent in Milo, in which office he served eight or ten years. John L. Cleveland, from Schoharie County, opened the first select school in what is now Penn Yan in 1814. Among his pupils were George A. Sheppard, Charles C. Sheppard, Charles Wagener, and James D. Morgan, sr.

The Board of Education have had in contemplation for about two years the erection of a building on the academy lot facing Liberty street. At a special school meeting of the voters of the district held on the 31st day of October, 1891, the sum of \$8,000 was voted to be levied for that purpose. This school building will be for the accommodation of the intermediate department of the academy. It will be substantially built of brick, two stories, about sixty feet square, and supplied with modern improvements. The second story will be utilized for the public school library and for the literary societies connected with the schools. It will, when completed, be not only an ornament to the village, but a much needed and substantial improvement.

The primary schools of the district were made free by the charter, and the Penn Yan Academy was made free to all residents of the district from and after 1875. District No. 4 of Milo was added to the Penn Yan Union School District in 1879, and the new brick school-house on Chestnut street was erected that year. This school building is amply sufficient for the accommodation of all primary pupils residing in the eastern part of the district. The cost of erecting the school-house, together with the price of the lot on which it stands, was not far from \$3,200. The Board of Education established a school on Lake street in 1876 and erected the present brick school building there in 1879 at a cost of \$2,200. These primary schools were a necessity and have proved a great success. The demand for a primary school on East Main street will be met as soon as possible.

There are at present within the district the academy building proper, a school-house on Head street, one on Chestnut street, one on Lake street, and one on Maiden lane; also the building on Liberty street in rear of academy sufficient for the accommodation of sixty pupils (the overflow from the intermediate department of that institution). Eigh-

teen teachers are now employed in the district and the daily average attendance in the schools is about 650.

A primary school, under the direction of the resident Catholic pastor, was opened in Penn Yan in October, 1883. The building is of brick and is a model school building, heated by steam, with modern improvements. The school is well conducted and has an attendance of about 165 pupils. The entire cost of the lot, including the buildings and fixtures complete, was about \$10,000. The Rev. Eugene Pagani, for fifteen years past the resident priest, has had the general supervision and care of the school.

#### THE YATES ACADEMY.

This chapter would be incomplete without an honorable mention of a former institution of learning located in Penn Yan, and in which much was done in earlier years toward the diffusion of knowledge and for the culture and general good of the community. The legislature of 1828 incorporated this school by the name of the "Yates County Academy and Female Seminary." It was opened for instruction on the first Monday in January, 1829, with an attendance of about seventy pupils, and Gardner Kellogg, a graduate of Bowdoin College, was principal. The school building was large and commodious and stood on the east side of Main street, opposite the county buildings. To the school was attached a boarding-house, with rooms for the accommodation of about fifty students. Seymour Gookins and Richard Taylor, well known to the early citizens of Penn Yan, were for several years the two leading teachers. The catalogue for 1834-35 show an attendance of 341 pupils. The "Yates Academy" (as it was usually called) prospered for some years, but about 1842 it ceased to exist for want of support. It was a most valuable institution in its day, and some of the best citizens of the county, of the generation now largely passed away, were instructed within its walls. The loss sustained by the county of Yates by its failure can not be estimated; it is beyond possible computation. Lacking as it did the support of the present common school system, but relying entirely upon tuition fees for its support, it was allowed to perish. The possibilities of this school, under the fostering care of our present system of free education, no one can tell. That it

would have proved of incalculable good to the community—a blessing to the people far-reaching and boundless in its scope—is beyond question. But “from its ashes,” after twenty years, arose the present Penn Yan Academy, and that the institution of today may “live long and prosper” is the ardent desire of all who love the future of our land. The following is a statement of the present condition of the Penn Yan Union School District :

Number of volumes in school library, . . . . .	1,561
Number of pamphlets in school library, . . . . .	200
Number of families in the district, . . . . .	564
Number of children in the district between the ages of five and twenty-one years, . . . . .	1,341
Number of teachers employed in district, . . . . .	19
Value of books and pamphlets in school library, . . . . .	\$2,000 00
Received from the School Fund for the year ending July 25, 1891 :	
For teachers' wages, . . . . .	\$ 2,752 50
For library, . . . . .	42 50
From tax, . . . . .	5,208 83
From tuition bills, . . . . .	615 21
From Teachers' Institute, rents, etc., . . . . .	30 00
From Regents of University, . . . . .	688 40
Value of school grounds, . . . . .	\$ 4,500 00
Value of buildings, . . . . .	12,000 00
Value of furniture, . . . . .	1,500 00
Value of apparatus, . . . . .	440 00
Value of library, . . . . .	2,000 00
Value of museum, . . . . .	45 00
Total cost for year ending July 25, 1891, . . . . .	10,426 28

#### STARKEY SEMINARY.

Starkey Seminary owes its origin to the denomination known as Christians. The institution was founded January 5, 1840, and is the oldest of like character within the bounds of Yates County. The first building was erected in 1841. Other buildings have been added until the property is estimated to be worth \$25,000. It is supplied with modern improvements, with scientific apparatus sufficient for advanced teaching, and has held its own from the time it was opened until the present as a first-class educational institution, and one of which the county of Yates may well be proud. Its alumni, numbered by hun-

dreds, are scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land, pointing back to this grand institution as their inspiration, and proving by their lives an honor to Starkey Seminary and a blessing to the world.

Its first trustees were men of the highest standing both intellectually and morally, men of culture and ability, and well worthy to have charge of an institution of this character. They were as follows: Joseph Bailey, Obadiah Chase, Caleb Cowing, Livret Gabriel, John Guthrie, Horace Henderson, James Huntington, Isaac Lanning, Clarkson Martin, Ezra Marvin, Seth Marvin, O. E. Morrell, Hiram A. Newcomb, Henry Spence, H. G. Stafford, Eli Townsend, and Daniel D. Van Allen. Elder Ezra Marvin was its first president and Daniel D. Van Allen was its first secretary. At a meeting of the Central Conference held at Eddytown on the 15th of January, 1840, it was resolved that the institution be called "The Seminary of the New York Central Christian Conference." Elder Marvin was president of the Board of Trustees until the time of his decease, with the exception of seven years, when he was pastor at Enfield. He was the indefatigable friend of the seminary from its inception until the close of his long and useful life. He died in Starkey in 1871. He was an effective minister and a man of ability and practical character. But for his persistency Starkey Seminary would not have achieved an existence in his day. He was born at Laurens, Otsego County, N. Y., in 1806, and married, in 1827, Huldah, the daughter of Elder Ezra Chase, of the Christian connection.

Its first term began November 28, 1842. The first principal was the Rev. Charles Morgridge, who occupied this position for seven terms. The next was Abram Miller, who was principal for two terms. He was followed by Thomas E. Turner, who remained two years. Edmund Chadwick, A.M., then assumed control and remained principal until 1861, a period of fourteen years. Professor Chadwick was succeeded by O. F. Ingalsby, A.M., whose administration extended over a period of twelve years. During the labors in behalf of instruction by these two latter gentlemen the institution reached its highest possible efficiency and usefulness.

Prof. Edmund Chadwick, who is among the more noted teachers of Starkey Seminary, first took charge November 8, 1847. At his coming



such men as Abbott Lawrence, Charles Francis Adams, Albert Fearing, Thomas Mandell, and others of Boston and vicinity contributed funds toward the purchase of apparatus for the school. Professor Chadwick was born in Milton, N. H., in 1812, and graduated at Bowdoin College in 1840. He also studied two years at Lane Theological Seminary and was graduated as a theological student at Bangor, Me. His health failed as a preacher, and he then took charge for two years of the Classical and Mathematical Institute at Nashville, Tenn. He next became principal of Starkey Seminary and continued to occupy this position for fourteen years. Professor Chadwick and his second wife, who for some years was preceptress of Starkey Seminary (her maiden name was Adaline Ward), both did for this institution a work of lasting good, retrieved and built up its fortunes, and through their efforts the school was placed on a firm, lasting, and secure foundation.

The first preceptress of the seminary was Mrs. Turner, the wife of Thomas E. Turner, the third principal. The second preceptress was Cassandra D. Hobart, who became the first wife of Prof. Edmund Chadwick. The third was Adaline Ward, formerly preceptress of the Dundee Academy, and afterward the second wife of Professor Chadwick. Miss N. N. Doane was for a number of years preceptress under Professor Ingalsby. Helen C. Bassett also held this position for several years.

Prof. B. F. McHenry was principal of Starkey Seminary from 1873 to 1877. Robert D. Evans, A.M., succeeded him as principal and held the position for two years. In 1879 O. F. Ingalsby, A.M., again became principal and served seven years in that capacity, and was succeeded by W. J. Reynolds, A.M., who resigned after holding the position for one year. G. R. Hammond, Ph.D., was then principal for five years and was succeeded in 1891 by O. H. Merrill, A.M., the present incumbent. The principals of Starkey Seminary have been gentlemen of unusual ability and devoted to the interests of the institution.

The teachers now employed in Starkey Seminary in addition to the principal are: Elizabeth Bolley, preceptress, Coreall C. Wilcox, A.B., Frank H. Hansner, Charles E. Cook, Ida E. Peake, Lelia C. Nelson, Warren H. Dennison. The courses of study include the common English branches, a complete academic and college preparatory course, with art, music, commercial, and stenographic departments.

The location is healthful and the scenery beautiful, and there is no saloon within three miles of the school. The value of the buildings is \$21,700; of the grounds, \$2,300; of the library, \$1,700; of the apparatus, \$1,788. The present Board of Trustees consists of W. E. Bassler, president; I. C. Tryon, secretary; L. A. Earle, treasurer; Cyrus Barber, Rev. M. G. Borthwick, Rev. Henry Brown, Rev. E. Burnap, S. E. Butler, George I. Edgerton, Benjamin French, G. R. Hammond, Ph.D., W. M. Hatfield, L. G. Phinney, D. L. Royce, Omar Smith, Hon. Hanford Struble, and Rev. T. R. Wade.

## DUNDEE SCHOOLS. •

The Dundee preparatory school was chartered by the Regents of the University in 1888. The following named gentlemen comprise the Board of Trustees: Hon. George P. Lord, Hon. Henry M. Huntington, H. V. L. Jones, E. M. Sawyer, S. R. Harpending, Dr. A. R. Otis, Leroy Sutton, C. S. Goble, Henry Goble, Eugene Vreeland, T. D. Beekman, and Frank N. Sayre. The officers of the board are Hon. George P. Lord, president; Frank N. Sayre, secretary; T. D. Beekman, treasurer. Prof. E. E. Cates is principal and Amy M. Parsons is preceptress, with an able corps of assistants. In this school students are graduated who have taken the full course of instruction and are prepared for college entrance.

The school building is situated on Harpending avenue and was erected at a cost of \$7,500. In the erection of this school building the public spirit and liberality of the citizens of Dundee were manifest, as the entire cost of the building and grounds, together with the superior library and apparatus, was provided for by subscription and not by tax. The average attendance is about eighty.

The Public School building is situated on Seneca street. It has been completed about one year, at a cost of \$7,000, exclusive of lot. It is an excellent building, supplied with modern improvements. Prof. Jerry Thompson is the present principal and has three assistants. The trustees are Dr. C. C. Harvey, John J. Knapp, and Edwin Jessup. The school is very prosperous and the attendance is so great as to necessitate the building of additional room. The citizens of Dundee may well point with pride to their excellent system of schools.

In 1849 Daniel Smith, James Shannon, and Isaac Maples bought the old Methodist Church in Dundee and had it refitted as an academy. Richard Taylor, a noted teacher, was its first principal. He was succeeded by Charles T. White. Among its first pupils were Hon. George P. Lord, Hon. Martin J. Sunderlin, Loren G. Thomas, and Rev. D. Corey. About thirty others among the earlier students afterward became school teachers. Among the later teachers in the Dundee Academy were Thomas E. Turner, William Marvin, H. M. Aller, P. G. Winfield, Hanford Struble, Ziba H. Patton, Edmund Chadwick and wife, Thomas Robinson, and Archibald Grant. Ira H. Stout was principal in 1872. This academy did a grand work for Dundee in its day, but for reasons hard to tell (like the first academy located at Penn Yan) it was allowed to be discontinued. The immeasurable good it accomplished is appreciated by the old citizens of that locality, and as long as life shall last they will never cease to remember the old Dundee Academy.

Among the earliest teachers in the Eddytown settlement was Rhoda Royce, who afterward became the wife of Caleb Cowing. Some of the other teachers there in early times were Bashan Roberts (one of his pupils being Isaac Lanning), Dr. John Warner, Alfred Gridley, Dr. William Cornwell (who quite early taught a school in the north part of Bennett's settlement), John Fulkerson, John Culver, Jonas Wickes, and Jane Quinn. Subsequent teachers in the town of Starkey of more or less note have been Elmer Keeler, John T. Andrews, Edwin C. Andrews, Walter Dickinson, James L. Seeley, Alice Demorest, Stephen and Zebora Edgerton, Richard Durham, Philander Cogswell, Henry Burgess, D. D. Warner, Ichabod Kneeland, C. Longstreet, Hiland G. Wolcott, Hershel W. Pierce, Hiram Cornell, John D. Wolcott, Henry A. Bruner, Lewis J. Wilkin, James H. Pope, Richard Taylor, and Dr. Samuel Hart Wright.

Beyond all doubt the first school within the present limits of the town of Starkey was taught by Orpha Scott some time before 1800. She and her mother came to the Friend's settlement in 1790. She was well educated and a woman of rare ability. She married Pearly Gates and died in Gorham at the age of nearly one hundred.

As early as 1826 the town of Starkey was divided into nine school

districts and two parts of districts. The town has long been noted for its high grade schools and for the public spirit of its citizens in this direction.

## KEUKA COLLEGE.

Keuka College had its origin and was planted in the county of Yates through the agency and untiring labors of Christian ministers. The enterprise was first suggested at a meeting representing the Central Association of Free Baptists and the New York State Conference of the Christian Convention held at Whitesboro, Oneida County, in the spring of 1887, and was fully determined upon at a joint convention of the two corporations held at Oneonta the ensuing fall. The plan was submitted to the citizens of Penn Yan and of the county of Yates in the winter of 1887-88, with the proposition to locate the institution on Lake Keuka near the village of Penn Yan. Several meetings were held and the proposition was met by a very generous response. A *bona fide* subscription of the sum of \$50,000 was soon placed in the hands of the committee. It is proper to state that the greater part of the subscription has been paid, but a portion, we regret to say, has as yet been withheld.

The institution was finally located in the town of Jerusalem on the westerly shore of Lake Keuka, four miles from Penn Yan, four from Branchport, and eighteen from Hammondsport, on a point of the lovely Keuka, on a farm of 157 ½ acres, which seemed to have been made and kept on purpose for this institution. A small lot was added by donation, making in all a little more than 160 acres. A liberal subscription by citizens residing about the lake to the building fund was raised and on the 18th of April, 1888, work on the center building was commenced. The building, 260 feet in size and four stories high above the basement, was finished and duly dedicated on the 18th of August, 1890.

Brethren from the Christian connection, having decided not to merge Starkey Seminary into the college, withdrew from the compact in the year 1890 and the work went on without their assistance. The ideas contemplated in the founding of this institution were as follows: By combining a vigorous academy, a thorough college, a great summer assembly, a college town where families shall reside while their children are in school, gentle and helpful Christian influence without sectarian



bias, plainness and cheapness of living, freedom from saloon temptations, healthful and delightful surroundings, revenue from the college building by using it for summer guests during vacation when such buildings are unproductive, the sale of lots of the park on which cottages shall be erected, by which a college town is secured and families from remote districts become active and interested friends of the college, the advertisement of the college through the summer assemblies, and the courses of lectures at these assemblies, by which information is imparted, desire for improvement begotten, and interest in the education of youth is inspired. The power to do a large work is secured, students and friends are attracted, and growth is assured. More than \$100,000 in cash has been already expended in the plant, which is now worth at least \$200,000. Nearly \$50,000 in notes, securities, and donations toward an endowment is in hand, and additions are being steadily made to this sum, inspiring faith that an ample endowment will ere long be secured. The college is pre-eminently for the common people, especially the children of farmers and other industrial classes. The border counties of New York and Pennsylvania need just such an institution and are showing that they appreciate it by giving it a liberal patronage.

The attendance the first year was 157 and indications favor the belief that the current year will show nearly double that number of students enrolled. Its aim is to supply a thorough education to both sexes at a very low cost. It takes students direct from the district school, fits them for college, and puts them through a regular college course. It also provides a scientific and business course for such as are not able to pursue a full classical course. It is proposed to provide ample accommodations for all who may come. Between forty and fifty neat substantial cottages have already been erected on the grounds, and the lots surrounding the college are rapidly increasing in value. The library is fast assuming generous proportions and arrangements are being made to supply the institution with needful philosophical and other apparatus. The department of music is not lost sight of, but competent teachers are in the employ of the Board of Directors.

The present Board of Managers consists of Rev. George H. Ball, D.D., president; Prof. Frank E. Passmore, treasurer; Rev. T. A. Stevens,

secretary; Rev. J. M. Langworthy, Rev. A. F. Schermerhorn, Rev. B. M. Briggs. The Board of Instructors consists of L. C. Millspough, M.D., principal; Marvin L. Spooner, M.A., vice-principal; Ella J. Ball, M.A., lady principal; Clarence E. Brockway, B.A., J. Nelson Green, Ph.B., E. G. Folsom, M.A., A. M. Hagaman, with several assistants.

The college and assembly are both for the public; whatever of value or interest belong to them aim at the elevation, improvement, and creation of superior men and women. This supreme purpose has inspired the founders from the beginning; with these objects kept constantly in view and as the foundation stones of this beautiful college who can measure the boundless influence for good of its future? This grand temple of learning, builded by the prayers and labors of the servants of the Master, will stand for centuries, a beacon light pointing upward and onward always toward all that is good and true and noble in manhood and womanhood. The charming lake, the site "beautiful for situation," the wide field to be cultivated, the generosity of the people brought it here, and here may it stand a "blessing for all time." Having prospered thus far through faith and the help of God its founders and supporters confidently expect Keuka College to grow for centuries, doing more and more for humanity and standing an object of joy and pride to all the people.<sup>1</sup>

The Rushville Union Free School was organized under the general law April 23, 1868, by combining District No. 7, towns of Potter (in Yates County) and Gorham (in Ontario County), and District No. 13, towns of Potter and Middlesex. The following trustees were elected: Emmet C. Dwelle, William G. Holbrook, and Nathaniel H. Green to serve one year; T. W. Crittenden, Orlan E. Blodgett, and Hiram Brown for two years; Moses B. Watkins, S. Judson Jones, and F. B. Seeley for three years; S. Judson Jones was elected president of the board. The school-house is a two-story brick building and cost with the grounds \$15,000. The grounds are ample, consisting of three acres, one acre being covered with thrifty maples, making a beautiful grove for which the district is indebted to Prof. A. D. Whitney, a former popular principal.

<sup>1</sup> At a meeting of the State Board of Regents held at Albany February 11, 1892, a provisional charter, without degree-conferring powers, was voted Keuka College. It is expected that full powers will be ere long conferred on this institution.

The school has been extremely fortunate in having a good Board of Trustees. It has been composed of intelligent, liberal men, all of them interested in the cause of education. The gentlemen composing the present board are Dr. W. A. Carson, president; D. J. Harkness, secretary; S. Judson Jones, Joshua P. Legg, James De Witt, Loyal C. Twitchell, Henry M. Smith, Ward M. Taylor, and F. P. Williams. The teachers are: F. W. Fisher, principal; Miss Harriet N. Davis, preceptress; Mrs. Ann G. Jones, primary. The successful manner in which the primary department has been conducted by the "veteran" instructor, Mrs. Ann G. Jones, is deserving of special mention. This lady has had charge of this department since the Union School was founded. She was also a teacher for several years in the district school of Rushville, and has taught continuously for forty years. The citizens of Rushville and vicinity may well feel proud of this grand institution of learning.

Middlesex Center has a new district school-house of ample dimensions and capacity for the accommodation of the place and vicinity. It is of brick, substantially built, and cost \$3,000. The citizens of Middlesex (as they should) take great pride in their village school.

The village of Branchport, in the town of Jerusalem, is possessed of one of the best and most substantial of school-houses. Its construction is of stone, and it has long been considered as one of the best managed district schools of the county.

Perhaps no town in the county is supplied with all that goes to make up good district schools than is the town of Benton. The school-houses are a model of neatness and convenience. Great care is also taken by the trustees in the selection of well qualified teachers. The school at Benton Center is known as an exceptionally fine school, as is also the one near Ferguson's.

One of the finest and most substantial school buildings in the county was erected in 1887-88 in the village of Dresden, in the town of Torrey. It has accommodations for 150 students and has all the improvements of the best regulated district schools. The citizens of Dresden have reason to be proud of their splendid school facilities. Its cost, including lot, was not far from \$4,000.

In closing this chapter congratulations are in order to all who are in-

terested in the success and prosperity of the public schools. The free school system of the State of New York has been a source of incalculable good to all the people. The educational interests of the county have kept at least even pace with its development and growth in other directions. It is safe to say that the schools of Yates compare favorably with those of her sister counties throughout the State. Their generous and hearty support in the past is a credit to the good sense of the citizens. The old school-houses are fast giving way to convenient and substantial structures with all modern improvements. The people are awake as never before to the value of institutions of learning.

The signs are full of hope and encouragement; the present is an age of culture and general diffusion of knowledge such as the world never before witnessed. The old adage that "knowledge is power" is being verified more and more. "Excelsior!" the motto of our State, should be adopted as the motto of every girl and boy in the land. "Upward and Onward" should be the watchword. With our schools what they should be under the blessing of the Infinite we shall show progress in all that is good and beautiful and true.

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## CHAPTER XVI.

### THE VINEYARDS AND THEIR PRODUCTS.

THE growing of grapes for commercial purposes is of comparatively recent date. The early settlers in this county found vines growing luxuriantly in the thickets where soil and moisture were congenial, indigenous to the soil so far as we know. "With regard to the necessity of attention to the most advantageous climatic conditions," says William Saunders (of the agricultural department), "it is enough to remark that when these are favorable good crops of fruit are the rule, and that, too, even in the absence of experience in cultivation, but in unfavorable locations the application of the highest attainments in the art and science of grape culture, so far as relates to pruning, manipulation



of culture, and management of soil, will not insure success. Grape culture has now reached a point from which but little further progress can be made without a close recognition of the requirements of the plant in connection with local climatic conditions, the most important being that of freedom from heavy dews, freedom from those cryptogamic diseases, mildew and rot. The topographical configuration of a locality is of far more importance than its geographical formation. When the atmospheric conditions are favorable satisfactory results may be obtained even from poor soils, but in incongenial climates the very best soil will not guarantee success." The climate being exceptionally free from fogs and heavy dews, and the topographical formation of the shores of lakes Seneca, Keuka, and Canandaigua being eminently fitted to the growth of choice fruit, have done much toward making the business a success.

The history of the grape industry is so closely allied in the counties of Yates and Steuben that it becomes necessary to give some facts which do not apply to Yates alone. In 1836 J. W. Prentiss began planting a vineyard in the town of Pultney, Steuben County, at a point about four miles south of the Yates County line. This seems to be the first vineyard planted for raising grapes to be sold for table use in this section of the State. From 1840 to 1852 he shipped to Bath, Steuben County, one or two tons of Isabellas in bulk annually, which sold for six cents per pound to regular customers. Production, however, increased faster than consumption, consequently he was soon compelled to look for a more extended market. In 1854 he shipped to New York city about a ton of Isabellas packed in tubs made by cutting apple barrels in halves. Each tub was packed half full, when a thin board was put over, pressing somewhat, a thin hoop being tacked under to prevent too much pressure. The tub was then filled and covered much like a tobacco pail. The tub when filled held seventy-five pounds. These sold at fifteen cent-per pound, arriving in market in good condition. He continued shipping, but the next ton broke the market and Mr. Prentiss, being his own salesman, had to have boxes made of pasteboard to contain ten pounds; then re packed the fruit from the tubs into the boxes, and managed by using time and perseverance to make satisfactory sales. This shipment closed the business for that year. In following years they were packed and shipped in boxes made by Mr. Prentiss at his vineyard, and sold by

commission merchants. In 1852 Mr. Reisenger, a German vineyardist, heard of Mr. Prentiss's success and came to see. Upon being satisfied that the cultivation of the grape could be made a success he made a contract with David Wagener to plant a vineyard of Catawbas, especially for wine and brandy. Wagener was to find the land and pay all expenses and Reisenger was to do the work, dividing the profits equally. There were about three acres set in 1853. The spot selected for this vineyard was on the lake shore about three miles south of the line dividing the counties of Yates and Steuben. The roots were set after the manner of planting in Germany, four feet apart each way and trellised about four feet high. It was soon found a change was needed. Three fourths of the vines were taken out, the trellis made higher, and it is now one of the most productive vineyards on the shores of Lake Keuka.

The Isabella was planted almost exclusively at first; it was brought from the South in the early part of the century, where it had been the standard variety for many years. The newer and more desirable varieties were seldom found outside of the grounds of the originators. It was yet to be demonstrated by trial whether any other varieties could be planted to advantage.

It is not the design to give in detail the names of the planters and dates of planting; only a few of the earliest will be mentioned, and these for the purpose of showing the sterling points and gradual increase of the industry. The earliest planting of a vineyard in Yates County seems to have been made by W. W. Shirland on a piece of land situated in the town of Benton almost at a point where the towns of Benton, Torrey, and Milo meet. It was set to Isabellas in the early part of November in the year 1855. It has since been replaced by Concords. Mr. Shirland began changing to Concords in 1866. The vineyard is one of the best and most productive of the many in the county. One of the pioneers in the business was John Mead in Benton near the Torrey line, who planted his first vineyard in 1861. It contained three acres; at that time it was counted a large one; it comprised half an acre of Isabellas, a large proportion of the balance being Concords; some Catawbas were planted; later the Isabellas were taken out and Concords substituted. The Catawbas were so uncertain in ripening that they were abandoned. The Concords are still in full vigor. There is

no record of Concords being planted previously. The original vineyard, together with additions thereto made at later dates, is now owned by Joshua Mead. One of the earliest if not the earliest planter of Delawares was Henry Rose, who set in 1861 three acres in the town of Benton, though included in the corporate limits of Penn Yan. This vineyard is still in good bearing, the original vines bearing good crops annually. It has since been enlarged.

Joseph F. Crosby, in Barrington, began planting in 1864; in that year he planted six acres, comprising one of Delawares, one of Dianas, one and one-half of Catawbias, and two and one half of Isabellas. The Delaware, Catawba, and Diana were just coming into prominence. Mr. Crosby was freely criticised by his neighbors for planting so largely, but facts show his judgment to have been good, as can be undoubtedly proved by an examination of his vineyards lying just north of Crosby's Landing. He planted freely in 1866. There were at this date several vineyards on the lake shore in the towns of Barrington and Milo of the Isabella variety. The Catawba had yet to be tested; they were proving of value in Pleasant Valley, at or near Hammondsport, and in Pultney on the west side of the lake; in consequence thereof those who intended planting began adding Catawbias to the list of desirable varieties. The price of roots was high; some parties used cuttings put in the vineyard the same as though already rooted; in some instances this proved successful, while in others a perfect failure—the practice never gained a firm footing and was soon abandoned. On Bluff Point in the town of Jerusalem planting began as early as 1862. William F. Van Tuyl, on the east side of the Point, purchased in the spring of 1862 of William Coons forty Catawba roots at the very reasonable price for the time, six cents each, and of Samuel Wagener 1,200 Catawba cuttings at \$5 per thousand. In 1864 he bought of Judge Larowe, of Hammondsport, 4,000 cuttings at \$3 per thousand, of which he says: "The majority of these cuttings were planted or set in the vineyard where they were intended to grow, the result being that about one-half of them grew and made strong roots so that we were enabled to fill out the ground as we put two cuttings in each hill." Isabellas also formed a part of this vineyard. The first sales are reported as follows: Isabellas taken to PennYan in a dry goods box and sold at nine cents per pound

September 15, 1865; September 17th Catawbas sold to Judge Larrowe at Hammondsport at twelve and a half cents per pound, he to furnish the boxes in which they were marketed. Abram Van Tuyl planted at the same time and manner as William. These vineyards are yet in full vigor.

Franklin Culver as early as 1861 planted on the east side of the Point near Kinney's Corners an acre or two of Isabellas, which have since been removed and their places filled by more desirable varieties. Planting had begun on Seneca Lake; occasionally a man who had as he thought a choice location had planted small vineyards. Anson Dunlap on the shore of the lake near Starkey Station had planted as early as 1862, as he sold a quantity of grapes at Hammondsport in 1866.

On lands now owned by the Seneca Lake Grape and Wine Company there was a vineyard of about three acres, part Catawbas and part Isabellas, planted by James Valentine about 1862. A stock company called the Seneca Lake Wine Company bought a large tract of land, including the above, and in 1867 extended the planting to more than 125 acres, which up to a late date was probably the largest vineyard in the State of New York. The varieties included Ionas, Catawbas, Champions, Hartfords, Prolifics, Concords, Delawares, and others. A large stone building was erected in 1870 for the manufacture of wines. The business had already been started in another building now used for a barn. Vine Valley in the town of Middlesex, on the shores of Canandaigua Lake, is peculiarly adapted to the growth of the Delaware, ripening it to perfection ten days in advance of other locations.

But few grapes were planted previous to 1865 and only in small vineyards. The results warranted larger, until the valley is literally filled with good productive vineyards covering hundreds of acres. Between the years 1865 and 1870 planting was done at a rapid rate; lands that had previously been counted of little value, in close proximity to the shores of the lakes, some of it steep and covered with a dense growth of young timber, being counted the best for grapes. Before worth perhaps twenty or twenty-five dollars per acre it rapidly advanced in price, \$250 and more being paid, many large proprietors selling in lots of five and ten acres for vineyard purposes. Grapes had been selling at good paying prices. It was held that no fertilizers would be needed. The prospect was good for a money-making business. Vineyards instead of being



small as heretofore were much more extensive. The vineyard owned by H. P. Sturtevant & Co., at the end of Bluff Point, one of the finest in the county, was commenced in 1865. The Pratt & Jillett vineyard, now owned by Harvey Pratt, was commenced in 1864. The McDowell vineyard and many others were commenced within a year or two succeeding. McDowell paid for Iona vines \$800, Delawares \$250, Concords \$80, and Catawbas \$100 per thousand. They were planted 6 x 6, 8 x 3, or 10 x 10 as the judgment or fancy of the planter dictated. Wire for trellises cost eleven to twelve cents per pound, No. 12 being the size most used. Most of the cultivation was done by hand. These prices and methods applied very generally throughout the county.

Eli R. Stever planted on Bluff Point the first Iona vineyard of any amount in 1867. That year he planted twenty-five acres. It was known to be a grape of the best quality, either for the table or wine. He contracted to pay \$370 per thousand for the roots and give the wood for six years. They came from Dr. Grant, of Iona Island, N. Y. They were propagated under glass. The year following twenty-five acres more were planted to Ionas; these were bought of William Griffith, of North East, Pa. They were grown in the open air, costing \$120, with the fruit for the first year, per thousand. Before planting the land was thoroughly underdrained, time and money being spent without limit to have all done that could be in the way of perfect preparation to make it a success, but they were finally abandoned, being of no value. In 1868 Mr. Stever planted fifteen acres of Delawares; these are still in good bearing. In the fall of 1865 and spring of 1866 twenty-five acres of the "Gulick Brown" vineyard at Kinney's Corners were planted, consisting of Delawares, Concords, Catawbas, Isabellas, and Dianas, Concord roots costing \$80 and sometimes \$100 per thousand. J. Warren Brown in 1867 planted 100 Delaware vines, and a much larger number of Isabellas. The Delaware roots were called first-class, but were so small that the whole 100 were taken to the place of planting in a pan. The Delawares planted at that time are still in prime order and have given good crops annually; the Isabellas have been grafted.

Planting went on rapidly until in 1872 over 400 acres were planted in the town of Jerusalem alone. In Vine Valley there were about 140 acres, while J. T. Henderson, C. N. Wixom, the Seneca Lake Wine and

Grape Company, together with many others, kept pace on the Seneca Lake. The prices had been good, the vineyards generally successful, until about 1870, when a surplus of fruit caused grapes to sell for an average of three cents per pound. It looked as though enough grapes had been planted to supply all demands for a long time to come. Many who had contemplated planting gave it up; lands decreased in price almost as fast as they had advanced five years before. From 1871 to 1876 the acreage of vines was not extended in any great amount, yet prices were gradually working up again and the prospect generally seemed to warrant more grapes. The demand for both table and wine was increasing. Beginning about 1876 to plant again the acreage has been extended until it is estimated about 7,000 acres are in bearing, with an average yield of above 10,000 tons annually.

In 1881 George C. Snow, on the Esperanza Vineyards located on the west branch of Lake Keuka, planted the first Niagaras. The package used for shipping at first was a box made of wood, holding ten pounds placed in crates holding six boxes. These gave place to boxes holding five pounds, with eight boxes in a crate, and these were superceded by a box containing three pounds with twelve in a crate. These were first made by the Messrs. Prentiss at Pultney and Fairchild at Hammondsport. In 1866 Messrs. Hopkins Brothers, at their factory in Penn Yan, began making boxes. This was the first factory in Yates County. They sold five-pound boxes in crates at \$80 and the three-pound boxes in crates at \$65 per thousand.

James W. Stever, of Branchport, and George W. Fenton, on the east side of Lake Keuka, soon after began manufacturing. Baskets began to be used in any amount in 1877. They rapidly superceded the box. Baskets containing ten pounds were used until about 1882, when the present "pony" or five-pound basket took precedence. There are now eight basket factories in operation, with an annual output of 3,000,000. Shipping began exclusively by express, the rate being \$1.65 per 100 pounds to New York city and the same to all the large cities on the seaboard. They began to be shipped by freight by Charles Hunter & Co. in 1868 at sixty-five cents per 100 pounds in car lots, the rate being the same to New York, Philadelphia, or Baltimore. About ten years later the Northern Central Railroad attempted to carry grapes by

freight in small lots. It was far from satisfactory ; the time spent in transit was too long and quite uncertain, the roads not having facilities for handling such perishable freight. The care they received was too rough, the result being they were not put into market in good order.

In 1880 J. P. Barnes established the Barnes Fruit Line, running cars for fruit alone from Hammondsport to New York *via* Bath and Hammondsport and Erie Railroads. The grapes were loaded at Hammondsport and unloaded without breaking bulk in New York in very good time. This gave a good outlet to the Yates County growers *via* boat to Hammondsport, and was a success. In 1884 Mr. Barnes organized his Boston line from Blood's station on the Erie road to Boston, giving this county the opportunity to take advantage of the Boston line at Bath. In 1884 Mr. Barnes also started his fruit line *via* the Northern Central Railroad, starting his cars at Canandaigua and getting his grapes between that point and Watkins. At this place the cars were closed and forwarded rapidly to their destination. Within a year or two succeeding the Northern Central Road assumed control of its fruit business and is giving excellent service. This company, the Hollowell & Wise Fast Fruit Line over the Fall Brook Railroad and the Barnes line from Hammondsport over the Erie road, are transporting nearly the whole output by freight both east and west.

The organization of the Pleasant Valley Wine Company, near Hammondsport, opened up a large market for grapes. This company was organized in 1860. The Urbana Wine Company was organized in 1865, followed by others until there are nine wine companies on Lake Keuka alone. These use in the aggregate several thousand tons of grapes annually, drawing quite a percentage of their supply from Yates County.

The method of pruning continues practically the same as first adopted. It is the thorough renewal system ; occasionally some other method has been attempted, but not to any extent. Grafting has been done quite extensively. Many of the early planted Isabellas have been changed by this process into more desirable varieties. The method pursued is the cleft graft and is the quickest way to change varieties that is known.

In 1886 John H. Butler, a practical and extensive vineyardist, started

in Penn Yan the *Vineyardist*, a journal devoted to grape culture and kindred interests. It is a horticultural paper, but a large part of its space is given over to discussing the intricacies of grape growing. Its columns have been open at all times to correspondents. It has been invaluable to growers as a medium through which errors could be corrected, new ideas relating to the business set forth, reporting on new varieties, etc. It has been well sustained.

Some diseases have made their appearance. The downy mildew has been by far the most destructive, sometimes defoliating vineyards as well as causing much rotting of the fruit. The foliage of the Delaware is very susceptible, but the fruit is almost free. Both fruit and foliage of the Catawba is subject to its ravages. Powdery mildew has not been of frequent occurrence. It sometimes attacks the Concord, doing much damage, but is usually not widespread. Black rot is of recent date. In 1889 Colonel Pearson, of the Department of Agriculture, made a careful examination of the vines in this section and found occasionally an infected berry. Careful search for a whole day resulted in finding a handful of infected berries among the Catawbas and occasionally a spotted leaf. It is a dangerous and contagious fungus disease, more persistent and destructive in warm, wet seasons. It is supposed when once fastened on a section or vineyard it will be almost impossible to stop it if the conditions are right for its dissemination. Some of the older growers say it has been long known under the local name of the "apple rot," some seasons causing heavy losses. This as well as other fungus diseases can be controlled by any of the salts of copper applied in the form of a very weak solution in water in the shape of a fine spray. Machines are made for the purpose, John H. Butler, Horace F. Mills, and G. C. Snow being the first to apply the fungicide by horsepower in 1890.

Anthraxnose is found, but seldom and very light; further than these the vines are free from disease. Among insects the *phylloxera* has done much damage. They infest the roots of nearly every vine. It has no doubt caused the almost total failure of the Iona. Most varieties are not damaged to any great extent.

Sometimes the Delaware, Catawba, and Clinton foliage is attacked by the *thrips*; if bad they cause much damage. No method has been de-



vised whereby they can be killed. Within a year or two the steel blue beetle has made its appearance in sufficient numbers to cause a perceptible loss. No effort has as yet been made to check its ravages except by catching them by hand.

Some important changes have taken place. The early vineyards were trellised with wooden slats nailed to stakes. Wire costing eleven and a half cents per pound, fastened to the stakes with wrought nails next came in vogue, and the wrought nails were succeeded by small staples made expressly for the purpose. Wire now is used costing about \$50 per ton. From all sorts and kinds of packages which have been tried the five and ten-pound baskets have taken precedence over all others. Transportation of grapes has become a well defined business. Improvements have been made where experience showed the need. The handling of the enormous amount of grapes between the vineyards where they are grown and the purchaser has been so systematized that seldom a basket is lost or damaged, and at rates about one-half below those charged twenty-five years ago. Where two tons broke the New York market in 1852 today thousands of tons are consumed, with the same increase in proportion in all the markets. The Isabella at first was supposed to be the only variety which could be grown here; it has now been almost entirely superceded by other and vastly better varieties. From plantings of an acre or two in widely separated localities we now find an aggregate acreage estimated at 7,000, yielding the last three years an annual average of 10,000 tons.

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## CHAPTER XVII.

### AGRICULTURE IN YATES COUNTY.<sup>1</sup>

THIS county was formed from Ontario on February 5, 1823. Bar-  
rington and Starkey were added April 5, 1824. The surface of the earth in this county is undulating, and is divided by five great ridges extending in a northerly direction, which gradually descend from a

<sup>1</sup> By James Miller, of Jerusalem.

height of from 600 to 1,800 feet above Seneca Lake to a gentle undulating region in the towns of Torrey, Benton, Potter, and Middlesex. The soil varies from a tenacious clay to a gravelly loam, but the greater portion is a medium and contains clay intermixed with gravel and loam, and is well adapted to grazing or tillage. It contains an abundance of lime for agricultural purposes, and of potash, also, except on the highest ridges.

The Tully limestone crops out on the Keuka outlet and, as it is said to contain two per cent. of phosphoric acid, might be utilized for agricultural purposes, as that is the most deficient element of plant food in the soil. There are also numerous deposits of muck which might be utilized to improve the uplands. The county has great natural advantages for agriculture, horticulture, and vinticulture. Much of the soil is of superior fertility. The climate, too, is tempered by the great lakes north and west of the State and the smaller interior ones, the borders of which are well adapted to fruit and especially to grape and peach growing. The former are of superior quality and their production has increased from small to vast proportions. At the time of the formation of the county only a small portion of the original forest had been removed. Most of it was settled, but only small clearings had been made. Nearly all of the settlers then lived in log houses. Pot and pearl ashes and wheat were mainly depended upon for sale, and only a small amount of the latter was produced and that sold for but fifty cents per bushel. So the incomes of farmers were small, but as only a few implements were used to cultivate the soil and secure crops, and as garments were manufactured and made at home, it supplied other wants. Wages were low. Farm hands labored for from \$6 to \$8 per month. Girls worked for from four shillings to six shillings per week.

A protective tariff was enacted in 1824, which encouraged manufacturing and diversified labor. Proportionately, too, many people had been engaged in agriculture. After the tariff act the price of agricultural products improved and wages advanced. A "woolen bill" was enacted in 1828, which rendered the duty of woolen goods more specific, and the production of wool thereafter became profitable and a great source of wealth. The value of farm lands rapidly advanced, and also all farm products and domestic animals. Labor also advanced and an

era of great prosperity followed. Competition reduced the price of all manufactured goods so that they could not be profitably made at home, and household manufacture gradually declined and the spinning-wheels and other appurtenances were consigned to the garret. Log huts were abandoned for commodious houses and stately mansions. But this era of prosperity was checked by the gradual reduction of the tariff from 1833 to 1842, when it was at minimum rate. A financial crisis had occurred in 1837 and prices of all farm products and domestic animals had declined. Good cows sold for \$10 and all other animals in like proportion. Wages of farm hands had declined from \$15 and \$18 per month to \$10 and \$12.

A protective tariff was again enacted in 1842, which once more revived prices of farm products. This was changed to a revenue tariff in 1846, but the Irish famine of 1846, the Mexican war, the discovery of gold, and the Crimean war maintained strong prices until 1857. After the close of the latter war another period of depression occurred and continued until 1861. After the commencement of our Civil war, and after the enactment of the protective tariff of 1861, another era of prosperity prevailed, which was checked only by the financial panic of 1873. Prices again improved in 1878, but were depressed in 1885 by over production from the vast amount of fertile soil brought under cultivation in the West, but as that has now been mainly occupied, and as the demand has equalled the supply, agriculture has an apparently bright future if farmers will become educated and avail themselves of every advantage and pursue mixed husbandry.

Wheat and wool with some barley were mainly depended upon in this county down to 1852, when the railroad from Watkins to Canandaigua was completed (now a branch of the Northern Central), which furnished transportation for fruit and perishable products. Since that time the products have been more diversified. Less wheat and wool have been produced and more of other cereals, especially barley. Fruit and grape growing has become a leading industry in many localities. The production of potatoes, hay, poultry, and eggs have greatly increased. The value of poultry sold in 1854 was \$12,494; of eggs, \$9,010. In 1864 the value of poultry sold was \$21,460; of eggs, \$13,511. In 1874 the value of poultry sold was \$33,179; of eggs, \$32,876.

The number of bushels of potatoes produced in 1854 was 57,912; in 1864, 126,813; in 1874, 194,246. The value of grapes produced in 1854 was \$57; in 1864, \$77,000; in 1874, 2,784,439 pounds. As the census was not taken in 1885 we cannot state the increase, but up to the present grapes must have increased threefold; also small fruit, more especially raspberries. All other varieties of fruit have also greatly increased in production.

It would be difficult to find an area of equal extent with Yates County having a more fertile soil or with as great natural advantages. Hundreds of men have commenced with small means, or none at all, and became wealthy or secured a competency; and for the benefit of young men we will name one of them, John Merrifield. He was visited in November, 1891, and found at work on his farm, although he is in his eighty-third year. He commenced to work for \$6 per month and increased from year to year until he received \$10 per month. He saved his wages until he could work land upon shares, and soon was able to purchase a farm, and at one time owned three good farms. He has been industrious, frugal, and temperate. There are just as good opportunities for young men to succeed in the future as there have been in the past. Land can be purchased for less than the improvements have cost, and with improved husbandry would be more profitable than more sought occupations.

Notwithstanding the fact that the products of the county are immense they could be doubled before the end of the present century, which would be more than double the value of the soil and quadruple the profits. This cannot be accomplished without some radical changes. Waste places must be cultivated. The cultivation must be deeper to return to the surface the elements of plant food which have been leached from it. Farmers must be more thorough in subduing noxious weeds and thistles and wet soils must be under-drained. More manures and fertilizers should also be applied. Improved breeds of domestic animals ought to be substituted instead of the quality now kept. Improved modes of feeding should be adopted. To obtain the best results animals should constantly have a full supply of nutritious food. Profitable results have been greatly reduced many times during extreme droughts and by the exposure of cattle to inclement weather late in



the season when pastures have become scant and lost much of their nutrition from frosts, and also by compelling animals to subsist on coarse, dry, and unnutritious food during the winter. This can all be obviated by the use of silos and by securing the southern corn for seed. Double the amount from a given area can be produced and the cost of keeping can be greatly lessened; and as the fodder corn may have double the value of a crop to husk, and requires less labor, it would be much more profitable for farmers of this county to purchase corn and other food from the west, which would increase the manure, and with a judicious use of commercial fertilizers they could compete with the West, as crops are more certain and local markets better in the East.

We have the best financial system and government in the world, and as the future success of farmers greatly depends on their stability it will be for the interest of every tiller of the soil to sustain them against agitators who are trying to array labor against capital. Capital has greatly aided agriculture by furnishing transportation for farm products, loaning money and furnishing it to pay for their products, and as every young man has opportunity to become a capitalist if he wishes to be, he ought to improve his opportunity and not envy those who have succeeded more than he. Many of our millionaires were rocked in the cradle of poverty, and with a stable government the child of poverty today may be the capitalist of the next generation. But the changes demanded by some of the agitators would greatly jeopardize his opportunity. They demand money issued and loaned by the government at two per cent. on land. This would greatly increase the price of land, and those who have none could not be benefited by it and it would be more difficult to obtain. Interest should be regulated by supply and demand the same as other commodities. High rates of interest can be obviated with good credit and prosperity by industrious economy and sobriety.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

FREEMASONRY IN YATES COUNTY.<sup>1</sup>

THE rapid growth of this great western world has given us full grown institutions at a time when in other countries they would have been in their infancy. It is unnecessary for the historian to begin with an effort to unveil the origin of Freemasonry or to show its growth with the growth and progress of an early civilization, to trace its development through untold centuries. It is enough to say that wherever the hand of man has established a civilized community there is to be found Freemasonry as one of its chief corner stones. Yates County was no exception. A few years after the hardy settler had cleared off a portion of the forest from the beautiful and fertile country lying between Penn Yan and Dresden a great highway was opened near the original east line of the Phelps and Gorham purchase, which, taking its name from this line, has ever since been known as the Pre-emption road. It ran from Geneva to the southern portion of this great tract and promised to become the great line of trade of all that beautiful country. At intervals of three or four miles along this highway were to be found taverns of a rude and primitive fashion. These taverns were built where neighborhood roads crossed the main highway and were gathering points for the neighbors as well as resting places for the traveler. The principal article of refreshment to be found at these resting places was the whisky of the country, which, owing to the cheapness of corn, ignorance of the adulteration of modern chemistry, and freedom from legal restraint, was within the reach of the poorest wayfarer. The proprietors of these taverns not infrequently kept small stocks of those goods most needed by neighboring settlers. Sometimes a wagonmaker or a blacksmith built his shop or set up his anvil at the same four corners, and soon the proprietor and perhaps a few of his neighbors began to think that their settlement was the beginning of a great city that would certainly grow up and surround their log cabins. At one of the most

<sup>1</sup>By John N. Macomb, jr., of Branchport, N. Y.

promising of these centers was the tavern of Thomas Lee, jr., which stood where the road from Dresden to Penn Yan joins the Pre emption road, now occupied by the handsome residence of Guy Shaw. All indications seemed to point to the growth of a prosperous town upon this site.

Prior to 1810 a few Masonic lodges had been established in the country west of Utica. Some of the members of these lodges had found their way into the neighborhood of which we are writing, and in that year a "warrant of dispensation" was issued by the Grand Lodge authorizing a few of these brethren to organize a lodge and do all regular Masonic work. The lodge was named Vernon, from the former name of the township, and its number on the Grand Lodge registry was 190. It was instituted on the 8th of May, 1810, by Parley Phillips, of Geneva. The names of the members of the lodge at its institution were: Dr. Joshua Lee, master; Benjamin Shaw, senior warden; Thomas Lee, jr., junior warden; John Hobart, Robert Patterson, James Schofield, Reuben Weed, Joseph Havens, Harry Smith, George C. Shattuck, and John Dow.

On the 12th of June Timothy Stewart was the first initiate. Vernon Lodge held its meetings for some years in the house of Thomas Lee, jr. As the lodge grew in numbers and as funds increased a better room was needed, and directions were given for building and a committee was appointed to superintend the work. This work must have been carried on slowly, for although it was begun in the spring of 1815 it does not appear to have been finished for more than a year. August 6, 1816, it was "Voted that we receive no petitions in the lodge until the room is finished or made more safe for doing business." During this period and for some time after bills were presented to the lodge for labor and materials, amounting in all to about \$600. One account dated January 8, 1817, was presented by Thomas Lee, jr., "for materials of building the lodge-room, whisky, etc," amounting to \$273.45, from which it would appear that they must have had an old-fashioned "raising." The lodge continued to occupy at Thomas Lee, jr.'s until February 9, 1819, when the first regular meeting was held at Asa Cole's on Head street in Penn Yan, west of Main street. A special meeting had been held there a month before, however, as we find in

the minutes that on December 27, 1818, it was "voted that the installation of officers elect be postponed on account of the severity of the weather until Thursday next, the 31st inst, then to take place at Asa Cole's at Penn Yan."

On the 14th of November, 1820, the lodge resolved to move to a room over Cornelius Masten's office and on the 19th of August, 1823, the lodge removed to Smith M. Cole's on Head street, Penn Yan, a few rods east of Main street, where it continued to meet until it moved into the new building of M. F. Sheppard, August 23, 1825. The lodge had undoubtedly met at times in its old home in the house of Thomas Lee, jr., after the first meetings were held in Penn Yan, and it was not until September 16, 1823, that it was "Voted that this lodge does hereby relinquish all claim or demand on the lodge-room in the house of Brother Thomas Lee, of whatsoever name or nature, and that Brother Thomas Lee does relinquish all dues from the lodge to him, (he having so agreed,) and that the moveable property of said lodge be given up to the lodge when called for." The Sheppard block, which stood on the west side of Main street just south of Head street, was burned December 6, 1826, and the lodge moved back to the room at Smith M. Cole's. The subject of a Masonic Hall to be built and owned by the lodge had frequently been considered and lots had been offered to the lodge. On the 9th of January, 1827, a committee was appointed to buy a lot to cost \$50 and build a Masonic Hall upon it at a cost not to exceed \$650. For this purpose a committee was "authorized to receive the funds of this lodge from the hands of the treasurer to defray the expense of said building as far as the same will extend, and to circulate a subscription among the fraternity to assist in said building with the understanding that moneys paid on said subscription be refunded as soon as funds come into the hands of this lodge." On the 25th of March, 1828, the lodge had evidently taken possession of the Masonic Hall; at that time the lower floor of the building was rented to Brother Hiram Nash, who was authorized to finish it at a cost of not more than \$175 and to pay himself with the rent at \$30 per annum.

By the end of the year 1830 the great tidal wave of anti-Masonry had swept over the country and Vernon Lodge was one of the wrecks left in its path. The records of the meetings show very few in attendance. On the 4th of December in that year it was



*"Resolved,* That a committee be appointed to sell all the real and personal property of this lodge for the purpose of paying the debts of said lodge, and that the Master and Wardens are hereby authorized to execute a deed and such other papers as may be necessary to secure a title to the purchaser of said premises."

In the early history of Vernon Lodge we find that it prospered financially and very soon became a lender, the members borrowing the lodge funds in sums varying from \$16 to \$30. Charity, that greatest of all virtues, abounded. The records show many instances of relief being extended to the unfortunate. On September 7, 1813, it was "Voted that ten dollars be paid to Augustus, George, and Stephen Reketh to redeem our brothers in Algiers, in bondage," and on March 1, 1814, "Brother Timothy Smith received of this lodge twenty dollars for the alleviation of his late misfortune, having his property burned and plundered by the British in taking Buffalo." As early as 1824 the subject of a Masonic Home was brought before the lodge. On September 20th of that year Rev. Brother Joshua Bradley visited the lodge and "delivered an address on the importance of forming a Masonic Association, submitting a plan of general association with power to loan, to buy a farm, and build an academy for Masons' orphan children, with a view to incorporation to disseminate correct Masonic information requesting representation of this lodge at a convention to be holden at Waterloo on the second Wednesday in October next."

The festivals of the two Saints John seem to have been observed from the first, either at home or with some sister lodge. On June 24, 1824, Vernon Lodge laid the corner-stone of the First Presbyterian Church in Penn Yan. The minutes of that date read. "It being the anniversary of S. John the Baptist Brother A. Woodworth attended as marshal, formed in procession marched to music, were joined by the Grand Lodge, received the ladies in form, marched to the site of the First Presbyterian Church in the village of Penn Yan, attended the ceremony of laying the corner-stone of the edifice in Masonic form by the Rev. Mr. Lansing as grand chaplain and Dr. Joshua Lee as grand master, were favored with Masonic discourse by the Rev. Mr. Pomeroy, marched in procession to a bower, and entertainment prepared by Brother Smith M. Cole; after refreshment returned to the lodge-room."

On St. John's day, 1826, an invitation was received from Union Lodge, No. 372, at Prattsburgh, to join in the celebration of the festival.

Consent was given to the organization of Reading Lodge (now Dundee Lodge, No. 123) on April 22, 1823, and to Italy Morning Star Lodge on February 21, 1826.

Disputes sometimes arose between brethren. These were brought before the lodge instead of being taken into court and were usually settled by a committee appointed by the lodge. A difficult case having arisen between Thomas Lee, jr., and Avery Smith, it was, as usual, referred to a committee, but the committee failed to make peace between the brethren and the matter was referred to the lodge as a committee of the whole and all members within eleven miles were summoned to attend this meeting. Harmony was finally restored. In those days of sparse settlement some of the members lived at considerable distances from the lodge. They were usually compensated for this disadvantage, as we find on February 9, 1819: "Voted, that Brother J. Schofield be exonerated from paying his quarterly dues to this date in consequence of his residing at an extreme distance from the lodge." Occasionally some of the brethren, although beginning well and coming to the lodge "of good report," became backsliders and were subjected to discipline. This usually consisted of suspension for a definite period. One brother was suspended for six months for anti-Masonic conduct. As this action bears date August 17, 1818, his offence could have had nothing to do with those enemies of Freemasonry who found a "good enough Morgan until after election." A committee appointed to investigate charges against a brother reported "that he was guilty of defrauding brethren and of other degrading and anti-Masonic conduct, and that he is irreclaimable." He was expelled. A committee was appointed to "admonish" a brother "for immoral conduct," against whom charges had been preferred. The committee reported at the next meeting "that they had talked with him and that he had promised a reformation, and yet, instead of reforming, the committee reported that they have since seen him frequently intoxicated." He was summoned to attend the next meeting, but he failed to do so, and a committee was appointed "to watch over his conduct." He was finally suspended for a short time and the committee was continued. Several reports of an unfavorable nature were made and at last he was expelled. Two brothers were expelled and it was voted that their expulsion be published in the *Geneva Palladium*. This action was, however, afterward rescinded.

While the new lodge-room was being built at Thomas Lee's the lodge was short of funds; an account was rendered for work and the stewards were ordered to "tax the members that attend sixpence a night so far back as will discharge the same." This plan of taxing those who attended was afterward given up. It was a good deal like the minister who scolds the thin congregation in stormy weather for the shortcomings of the "rainy day Christians."

In those early days traveling was difficult and expensive and the lodges were less frequently represented in the Grand Lodge than has been the custom during the past fifty years. The only notice of Vernon Lodge having been represented in Grand Lodge was in 1826. Brother Cornelius Masten was appointed to represent Vernon Lodge at that meeting and he was directed "to hail the Grand Lodge of the State of New York called the 'Country Grand Lodge,' of which Stephen Van Rensselaer is grand master." The unfortunate division which made two Grand Lodges in the State for a period of four years was happily healed the next year; but it is worthy of note that the rural lodges were a unit in their resistance to the aggression of the city Grand Lodge, and were finally successful in their demand for a just recognition. Upon his return Brother Masten presented an account against the lodge of \$20 for Grand Lodge dues, evidently for several years past, and \$65.25 for his expenses in attending Grand Lodge—all of which was paid.

Many of the members of Vernon Lodge were prominent in the building up of Yates County and their names come down to us as among the historical landmarks of Penn Yan and its vicinity. Of all those brethren only one remains with us who was made a Mason in Vernon Lodge—Brother Russell R. Fargo, now living in Pulteney, N. Y. He was made a Mason on January 17, 1826. He was supervisor of Milo in 1846 and county clerk in 1847-49. The masters of Vernon Lodge were Dr. Joshua Lee, Benjamin Shaw, Thomas Lee, jr., John Powell, Dr. Andrew F. Oliver, Cornelius Masten, Samuel Lawrence, and Ebenezer Brown.

After 1830 Freemasonry in Penn Yan remained in a dormant condition for fifteen years, during which time a number of brethren moved into the village, which had made a very encouraging growth. After the storm of anti-Masonry had spent its force, and those who promoted

it had received all the political rewards that seemed likely to come from making it a political issue, it naturally died out, and Western New York, always ready for the excitement of some new delusion, turned its attention to Millerism and other like sensations.

In 1845 certain brethren in Penn Yan applied for and received a dispensation for a lodge to be named Penn Yan Lodge. It held its first meeting August 12, 1845. Its officers were Samuel L. Bigelow, master, and Elijah Higby and Elisha H. Huntington, wardens. Clement W. Bennett was one of its early initiates. He shortly afterward moved to Washington, D. C., where he received many of the higher degrees and orders of Masonry. He was at one time commander of Washington Commandery, No. 1, of that city, and was present in its ranks at the laying of the corner stone of the Washington Monument in 1849 and again in 1885 at the dedication of that stupendous edifice, and the only member of that commandery thus present on both occasions. Penn Yan Lodge does not seem to have been successful, for after a few months existence it ceased, leaving very little to mark its brief career. A new dispensation was issued to Samuel L. Bigelow as master and Hiram Depew and Elisha H. Huntington as wardens, authorizing them to organize, Milo Lodge, No. 108.

The first meeting of this lodge was held on April 15, 1846. On June 6th following a charter was granted by the Grand Lodge, and from that time to the present the history of Freemasonry in Yates County has been simply the quiet record of successful and prosperous existence. Milo Lodge met for a short time in the old Masonic Hall on Court street, but soon arranged to occupy Odd Fellows Hall, which has been its home ever since. December 23, 1852, Milo Lodge gave consent to the organization of Seneca Lake Lodge, No. 308, at Dresden. The members of Milo Lodge have ever been earnest and enthusiastic in all Masonic work and several of them have attained to the higher honors of Freemasonry, six of them having received the thirty-third degree. It is said that it is the only lodge in the State that has been represented in the chief offices of the four grand bodies of Freemasonry, severally by four of its members. These are Hon. John L. Lewis, who was grand master of the Grand Lodge of New York from 1856 to 1860; Darius A. Ogden, grand high priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter



from 1863 to 1865; John N. Macomb, jr., grand master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters from 1889 to 1891; and Charles G. Judd, grand commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, from 1858 to 1860. A short sketch of these brethren will appear after the history of each of the bodies with which they were more prominently identified. It is worthy of remark in this place that Judge Lewis, besides holding the position of grand master, as above stated, was grand high priest of New York from 1852 to 1855, and general grand high priest of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States from 1865 to 1868. He was also sovereign grand commander of the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors-General of the Thirty-third degree of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite.

Hon. John L. Lewis was born July 17, 1813, in Torrey, Yates County, N. Y. After receiving an excellent education under the direction of his father, who was one of the pioneer school teachers of Yates County, he came to Penn Yan. He was for a year clerk in the postoffice; after that he devoted himself to the study of law, part of the time in the office of Henry A. Wisner and afterward in that of William M. Oliver. He was admitted to practice in the State and United States Courts, and was district attorney of Yates County from 1839 to 1847, and county judge and surrogate from 1851 to 1855. He was Regent of the University from February 7, 1871, to the time of his death. He was a member of the four subordinate Masonic bodies in Penn Yan and the presiding officer of each of them, besides holding many other positions in them of great importance and responsibility. It was, however, in his connection with the Grand Lodge and Grand and General Grand Chapters that his great reputation was made as a wise and accomplished Mason. The history of those bodies for many years is his history. It was through his firm and consistent course, tempered with kindness and courtesy, that the two great unions between contending Grand Lodges were brought about, and in effecting these results he won for himself the enviable character of peacemaker. He was an easy and fluent speaker, thoroughly conversant with the history and principles of Freemasonry, always prepared to interest and to instruct. As a Masonic writer his reputation was world wide, and while occupying the po-

sition of general grand high priest he was appealed to by companions upon the other side of the Atlantic for true Masonic light. He died in Penn Yan on the 11th of June, 1889, full of years and honors.

Dundee Lodge, No. 123, was organized as Reading Lodge in 1823, and was located in Eddytown about two miles from Dundee. Its first master was Dr. Hosea Palmer. Samuel Kress was the first initiate and succeeded Dr. Palmer as master. In common with nearly every lodge in Western New York it went down during the evil days of anti-Masonry. Probably no meetings were held after 1830. In 1847 it was again chartered and since then has enjoyed a fair share of the prosperity that has attended upon Free Masonry in this progressive age. In the second organization Dr. Hosea Palmer again became master and held that position for some time. He was succeeded by John T. Andrews and Edgar Hoagland. In 1860 the Masonic Hall was destroyed by fire and the furniture and records were burned. In 1861 the lodge took possession of the rooms it now occupies. Dundee Lodge has prospered financially and was the first lodge in Yates County to pay off its quota of the hall and asylum fund. It is now out of debt. The following have been masters of Dundee Lodge since 1860: Dr. E. W. Rogers, Dr. J. A. Chapman, Dr. J. H. Shaw, James Spence, Uriah Hair, Darius W. Perry, M. M. Rollinson, Myers T. Webb, Joseph Gibbs, G. Anson Beam, Luther M. Hair, H. V. L. Jones, Theodore M. Horton, Charles Goble, and Edward M. Sawyer.

Seneca Lake Lodge, No. 308, Dresden, was organized under charter June 11, 1853. Orrin W. Giles was the first master and Ambrose H. Condit and Caleb J. Legg were wardens. The organization of this lodge came after all excitement in our county had passed away, either connected with the early settlement of the country or its growth and progress, or that connected with the anti-Masonic strife, and its history contains nothing of the startling nature that we look for in an earlier time. One of its members, Brother E. A. Hotchkiss, moved to the West and became grand high priest of the Grand Chapter of Minnesota. The following brethren have been masters of this lodge: Orrin W. Giles, Ambrose H. Condit, Aaron R. McLean, George W. Brundage, William Van Norman, Aaron M. Davis, William D. Trimmer, Lewis B. Dunning, Edwin L. Swarthout, William Brown, Amos A. Norman, John Thompson, and Judson V. Brown.

Rushville Lodge, No. 377, was organized in 1854 in the prosperous village of the same name. It has partaken of the prosperity of that favored portion of our county, and like some other ambitious lodges has owned its own home and has been a landlord, as there are two stores under the lodge hall. Its growth has not been great, but it has kept upon its membership roll the names of many of the substantial men of the neighborhood.

Penn Yan Chapter, No. 100, of Royal Arch Masons is the only body of Capitular Masonry in Yates County. It was organized August 31, 1825, by Companion Richard L. Smith, of Auburn, assisted by a number of companions from abroad. A Masonic address was delivered by the Rev. D. McDonald, of Geneva. The charter bears date February 3, 1825, and the officers named therein are John Powell, high priest; Cornelius Masten, king; and Henry Bradley, scribe. Penn Yan Chapter and Vernon Lodge made an agreement at once for renting Mechanics Hall in the new M. F. Sheppard block, heretofore mentioned. Each body was to pay half the rent, which amounted to \$30 per annum. The chapter was well supplied with regalia, furniture, etc., and very wisely carried an insurance for \$300 upon it. When this building was burned in December of the next year the insurance money which it received paid its debts and left it with a small sum on hand. The chapter had a successful existence during the few years that remained before the gathering of the clouds before the storm of anti-Masonry warned the members of danger. In addition to the eighteen charter members there were added as neophytes eighteen and by affiliation eight, making a total membership of forty-four, reduced somewhat by withdrawals. John Powell held the chief office until December, 1826, when Cornelius Masten was elected high priest. He was succeeded the next year by Dr. A. F. Oliver. The minutes show but one meeting in 1828 and none after that. A dispensation for a revival of the chapter was issued July 4, 1846. The chapter was re-organized September 10th of that year. The chapter was consecrated and the officers were installed by Thomas Maxwell, high priest of Geneva Chapter, No. 36. In the revival the old charter was restored to the chapter. The new officers were Dr. Andrew F. Oliver, high priest; John Powell, king; and Cornelius Masten, scribe. The chapter found a new home in Odd Fel-

lows Hall, which it has occupied ever since and which soon after became Masonic Hall. January 21, 1850, Penn Yan Chapter gave its consent to the revival of Fidelity Chapter, No. 77, at Trumansburgh.

Darius A. Ogden was made a Royal Arch Mason in Penn Yan Chapter, served as its high priest and represented it in the Grand Chapter of the State of New York where he was elected grand high priest, which office he held for two years. He continued in active duty in the Grand Chapter and as chairman of the committee on foreign correspondence, and as such conducted the relations of the Grand Chapter of New York to its sister Grand Chapters with ability. He had been a member of all the Masonic bodies in Penn Yan, and had received the thirty-third degree as an honorary member of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite in the Northern Masonic jurisdiction. In civil life he had held important positions, having been for some years consul at Honolulu. He was canal commissioner and member of Assembly. For many years he had been a member of the Board of Education of Penn Yan and a trustee of Willard Asylum. He was born in Northville, N. Y., August 14, 1813, and died in Penn Yan on May 4, 1889.

Ontario Council, No. 23, Royal and Select Masters, was organized in Geneva, N. Y., on the 23d of February, 1864, by Grand Master Charles H. Platt, who issued his dispensation for that purpose on that date. A charter was afterward granted to it by the Grand Council on the 5th of February, 1865. For about fifteen years it continued to hold its assemblies in Geneva, with a moderate degree of success. At the assembly held on December 6, 1880, it was decided to ask the grand master for his dispensation to move the council to Penn Yan; to this request he acceded, and on St. John's day, December 27th, the officers were installed in public, with the officers of Milo Lodge and Penn Yan Chapter, in the Masonic Hall in Penn Yan. From that time Ontario Council has continued to shed the beauties of Cryptic Masonry upon the neophyte in Penn Yan, which is expected to be its home for time to come. The thrice illustrious masters of Ontario Council have been Corydon Wheat, William P. Durrant, John N. Macomb, jr., Franklin E. Smith, Orville F. Randolph, John L. Lewis, Edward Kendall, J. Henry Smith, and Henry R. Sill.

John N. Macomb, jr., was appointed grand lecturer of the Grand



Council on the 9th of September, 1880, and held that and other subordinate positions in that body until the 10th of September, 1889, when he was elected grand master of Royal and Select Masters in the State of New York, which position he occupied until September 8, 1891. He was made a Mason in Milo Lodge, No. 108, F. and A. M., on August 6, 1875, and received the Fellow Craft's degree on August 20th, and the Master Mason's degree on September 3d. He was elected master of Milo Lodge on the 20th of December, 1878, and served as such for two years. On St. John the Baptist's day, June 24, 1885, he was appointed district deputy grand master of the Twenty-first Masonic District, and continued to discharge the responsible duties of that office until the corresponding date in 1889. On the 24th of January, 1876, he received the Mark Master's degree in Penn Yan Chapter, No. 100, of Royal Arch Masons, the remaining degrees of Capitular Masonry being received on the following dates: Past master, February 14th; most excellent master, April 10th; and Royal Arch Mason, April 24th. On the 9th of December, 1881, he was elected high priest and held that position for one year. On February 8, 1888, he was appointed assistant grand lecturer of the Sixth District, which office he still holds. He received the degrees of Cryptic Masonry in Ontario Council, No. 23, R. and S. M., in Geneva, on the 5th of February, 1877. On the 4th of March, 1878, he was elected thrice illustrious master of the council, and continued in that office for four years. He is the present grand representative of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Tennessee, near that of New York. On the 20th of June, 1876, he received the order of the Red Cross, and on the 18th of July the order of the Temple in Jerusalem Commandery, No. 17, K. T. He was elected to preside over the commandery as its eminent commander on May 7, 1878, and filled that position for six years. He is the grand representative of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kentucky, near that of New York. In the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite he received the degrees and holds membership in the bodies in the valley of the Genesee at Rochester, N. Y. On September 19, 1882, he received the thirty-third degree in the Supreme Council of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction at Boston, and became an honorary member of that body.

In the year 1848 the first effort was made to establish an encampment of Knights Templar at Penn Yan, in the then unoccupied territory extending from Utica to Rochester, and from Lake Ontario to Pennsylvania. On the 17th of May, with this end in view, John L. Lewis, jr., and Davison Moshier went to Rochester, where they received the orders of Masonic Knighthood at the hands of that veteran Mason, William E. Lathrop. Associating with themselves several other Knights of the Order in February, 1849, they applied to Robert R. Boyd, grand master of the Grand Encampment of the State of New York, for a dispensation to organize an Encampment<sup>1</sup> at Penn Yan. Owing to some informality this petition was not received; it was, however, renewed in the following June in proper form, and was presented to Grand Master Boyd, accompanied by the required fee in the form of a draft for \$90, which was placed by the grand master (who was at that time also grand secretary of the Grand Lodge) in the tin box that contained the Grand Lodge funds. In the scramble for the spoils, which formed an important event in that unfortunate and unhappy communication of the Grand Lodge, the victors bore off, among other treasures, this particular draft, payment of which was stopped at the bank, and it was not until the 25th of February, 1850, that the dispensation was placed in the hands of the petitioners. It, however, bears this endorsement: "Granted on payment of fees, June 7, 1849. J. M. Hatch, G. R., p. t."

On the 9th of June, 1850, a charter was issued signed by James Hegeman, grand master; William E. Lathrop, D. G. M.; George L. Thatcher, grand generalissimo; and John L. Lewis, jr., grand captain-general, authorizing Davison Moshier as grand commander; John L. Lewis, jr., as generalissimo; and Cornelius Masten as captain-general, to confer the Orders of Knights of the Red Cross, Knights Templar, Knights of Malta, Knights of the Christian Mark, and Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. The petitioners for the dispensation were as follows: Davison Moshier, of Monroe Encampment, No. 12, Rochester, N. Y.; John L. Lewis, jr., of Monroe Encampment, No. 12, Rochester, N. Y.; Cornelius Masten, of Morton Encampment, No. 4, New York, N. Y.; William M. Oliver, of Columbian Encampment, No. 1, New York, N. Y.; John Daggett, of Genesee Encampment, No. 10, Lockport, N. Y.;

<sup>1</sup> The name encampment was changed to commandery in 1857.

Clement W. Bennett, of Washington Encampment, No. 1, Washington, D. C.; William C. Bishop, of Louisville Encampment, No. 1, Louisville, Ky.; and John Trimble. The last named is recorded as having received the Orders of Knighthood in Ireland, but no encampment is given.

The name "Jerusalem" given to this encampment was from the original name of the township in which its asylum is situated. The first conclave was held on the 1st day of March, 1850. At this time the only commandery occupying any portion of the territory named in the beginning of this sketch, besides Jerusalem, was Salem Town, No. 16, at Auburn. Within a few years Jerusalem Commandery had conferred the Orders of Knighthood upon the greater part of the material resident within easy reach of its asylum, none from the more distant portions of its jurisdiction applying except on two occasions, when they were looking toward the organization of new commanderies.

On the 9th of April, 1852, consent was given to the organization of St. Omer's Commandery, No. 19, at Elmira, and soon afterward DeMolay Commandery, No. 22, was organized at Hornellsville; these concessions cut off a very important part of the territorial jurisdiction of Jerusalem Commandery. On the 20th of January, 1860, consent was given to the organization of Geneva Commandery, No. 29, and this reduced Jerusalem practically to the neighborhood of Penn Yan, for although Ovid, in Seneca County, is still within its jurisdiction, the residents of that village find it more convenient to go to Geneva for their orders of Masonic Knighthood, and they accordingly go, "asking no questions for conscience sake."

It has been the custom for many years for the subordinate commanderies to turn out as a guard of honor to the Grand Commandery of the State at its annual conclaves, and Jerusalem Commandery performed this pleasing duty for the first time in October, 1885, at Rochester, and afterward was found in its place in the column in 1886, at Elmira; and in 1887 at Utica. In the Grand Commandery of the State Jerusalem Commandery has been honored by the election of Charles G. Judd to the office of grand commander in the years of 1858 and 1859. He was born in Williamstown, Mass., October 14, 1803. He was graduated from Williams College in 1824. He studied law and was admitted to

practice. In early life he came to Penn Yan, was district attorney from 1831 to 1839, and ranked high in his profession and in mental attainments. He was an exemplary and public spirited citizen, respected and beloved by all who knew him. He was made a Mason in Milo Lodge, No. 108, April 9, 1847, and was master of that lodge for one year from December, 7, 1848. He was made a Royal Arch Mason in Penn Yan Chapter, No. 100, September 6, 1847, and was its high priest during the year 1852. He was made a Knight Templar in Jerusalem Commandery, No. 17, March 19, 1850, and was chosen eminent commander in 1853, and again in 1855, serving until 1859. In 1857 he was elected grand generalissimo of the Grand Commandery. He died at his home in Penn Yan, on December 1, 1886.

In the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite dispensations were issued for the organization of three bodies to be held in Penn Yan. These were named Penn Yan Lodge of Perfection, Jerusalem Council of Princes of Jerusalem, and Yates Chapter of Rose Croix. These dispensations all bear date July 25, 1863, and are all directed to the same brethren, whose names are as follows: John L. Lewis, Darius A. Ogden, Guy Shaw, William T. Remer, Peter S. Oliver, James Burns, Clement W. Bennett, Spencer S. Raplee, and Samuel R. Fish. These bodies were organized and kept in existence for some years under these dispensations. The several degrees over which they had jurisdiction, viz: the fourth to the eighteenth, inclusive, were conferred upon a few Masons. It was found difficult for the little band of faithful workers in Penn Yan to keep these bodies in good condition in addition to the duties that devolved upon them in connection with the bodies already existing, so they were obliged to allow the dispensations to lapse and no charters were granted.



## CHAPTER XIX.

## LAKE KEUKA AND ITS NAVIGATION.

WERE it possible for the plain, methodical and matter of fact writer of history to become at all romantic or sentimental, he might justly say: "Beautiful Ogoyago of the Senecas, what changes has the devastating hand of man wrought in your appearance during his reign of an hundred years?" Where once alone did glide the noiseless canoe are seen large and elegant steam craft, each freighted with the fruits of innumerable vineyards, or laden with pleasure-seeking passengers. But to lay aside romancing and come to the material facts it may be stated that the now called Lake Keuka is peculiarly the possession of Yates County despite the fact that its upper waters lie in an adjoining shire. Seneca Lake bounds Yates County on the east, and Canandaigua Lake on the west; but with these bodies the county has nothing in common except incidentally and remotely. But with Keuka the situation is different. Local capital and industry have developed its resources and placed upon it the most elegant lines of steamers that ever graced an interior lake.

To the ancient Senecas this lake was known as Ogoyago, while to a later generation of the same occupants the name Keuka appears to have been applied to the lake. But this is a disputed question and the writer may be treading on dangerous ground in making the above assertion. It is claimed, and upon good authority, too, that the true Seneca name of this lake was Keuka, meaning "Lake with an elbow," which is truly descriptive of its outline formation. It is also asserted that Ogoyago in Seneca means "Land between the waters," fairly descriptive of the promintory called Bluff Point. Both of these statements may be and perhaps are true, and yet the original assertion will stand unimpeached; for one of the customs of the ancient Senecas was to name their lakes and rivers after some peculiarly prominent point of land in their immediate vicinity. If to them Bluff Point was Ogoyago, so, too, might the lake be called, and that regardless of the fact that

Keuka, "lake with an elbow," was more properly descriptive of the character of the lake itself.

But this is a comparatively unimportant subject to argue in this place. Both sides can present strong arguments in support of their positions; but the matter is satisfactorily set at rest in the fact that common consent has adopted the name of Lake Keuka as proper and fitting to Yates County's own body of water. It may be stated, however, that the white-faced pioneers gave the name Crooked Lake, by which also the lake has ever since been known.

Navigation on Lake Keuka has passed through many stages and conditions since the first occupancy of the region by the white man. First there was the dugout or birch bark canoe used alike by the red men and the white-faced pioneer. This was followed by the flat boat period, of which Capt. John Beddoe seems to have been the pioneer. His craft was of three tons burthen and was brought to Lake Keuka from New York, being carried over the territory intervening between navigable waters. Captain Beddoe's voyage was made from the foot of the lake to his tract or purchase of land in Jerusalem in 1798. The flat boat period, however, was not commenced until some years after John Beddoe's voyage, nor was he even to be counted among the early regular lake navigators.

In 1833 the Crooked Lake Canal was opened for business. This brought to Lake Keuka an importance not before enjoyed, and following it was an era of prosperity that even the most ardent pioneer enthusiast had never dreamed of. But this was nothing more than a single onward step, and the importance of the canal and occasional sail boat period was more than dwarfed into insignificance by the appearance of the first steamboat—the *Keuka*—built and put upon the lake in 1837, and commanded by Capt. Joe Lewis; John Gregg, engineer. The *Keuka* was owned by the Crooked Lake Steamboat Company, the principal stockholders in which were S. S. Ellsworth, of Penn Yan; John Magee, and W. W. McKay, of Bath; Thomas W. Olcott, of Albany; and B. Whiting, of Geneva. Capt. Joe Lewis, of Geneva, commanded the *Keuka* until 1841, and was then succeeded by John Gregg, her former engineer. Four years later the boat stranded and beached near the foot of the lake. She was dismantled and her cabins taken to form the nucleus of the present summer resort known as the *Ark*.

In 1845 Captain Gregg built the steamer *Steuben* and was her captain until the spring of 1864, when he sold her to Capt. Allen Wood. She was burned in July, 1864. The steamer *George R. Youngs* was built in 1865 by Capt. Allen Wood, who commenced running her in the month of September of that year. In 1868 Captain Wood built the screw steamer *Keuka*, which ran for a few years and was then sold and removed from the lake.

In 1871 the firm of Crosby & Company, composed of Morris F. Sheppard, Joseph F. Crosby, and Farley Holmes, bought the *George R. Youngs* of Capt. Allen Wood, and changed her name to the *Steuben*. In 1872 they formed the Lake Keuka Steam Navigation Company, of which Farley Holmes was president; Morris F. Sheppard, secretary and treasurer; and Joseph F. Crosby, superintendent. They built the steamer *Yates*. Morris F. Sheppard and Joseph F. Crosby sold out their interest in the Lake Keuka Steam Navigation Company to Farley Holmes.

In 1878 the Keuka Steamboat Company was organized at Hammondsport, and built the *Lulu*. In 1880 the Keuka Navigation Company was organized with Nelson Thompson, president; Ralph T. Wood, vice-president; Morris F. Sheppard, secretary and treasurer; and George A. Sanders, superintendent. They purchased the *Lulu* of the Keuka Steamboat Company and built the steamer *Urbana*. In 1881 the Keuka Navigation Company bought the *Yates* and *Steuben* of the Lake Keuka Steam Navigation Company. In 1882 George A. Sanders resigned and W. W. Eastman was appointed superintendent. In the winter of 1883-84 the steamer *Yates* was burned at her moorings in Penn Yan.

About this time William L. Halsey, of Rochester, formerly of Steuben County, became interested in the company. In 1883, owing to some misunderstanding with his associates, Mr. Halsey organized the Crooked Lake Navigation Company, with a capital stock of \$12,000, and officers and directors as follows: William L. Halsey, president; George H. Lapham, vice-president; T. O. Hamlin, secretary and treasurer; O. C. Knapp, superintendent; directors, W. L. Halsey, O. C. Knapp, T. O. Hamlin, W. W. Quackenbush, W. M. Johnson, George S. Weaver, Allen Wood, and George H. Lapham. The new company built and put upon

the lake the large steamers *Holmes* and *West Branch* during the year 1883, and set up an opposition to the old line. The result was a most bitter enmity between the contending companies, which has continued even to the present time. The Crooked Lake Company put the fares down to ten cents to any point upon the lake. The old company immediately followed by reducing them to five cents. In 1884 Mr. Halsey died and T. O. Hamlin succeeded to the presidency of the company still retaining, however, his positions as secretary and treasurer. In 1887 Mr. Knapp died and was succeeded by William N. Wise as superintendent. In 1885 Morris F. Sheppard was elected president and treasurer of the Keuka Navigation Company; Nelson Thompson, vice-president; and William T. Morris, secretary.

In 1886 the Lake Keuka Navigation Company was formed with the following officers: Morris F. Sheppard, president and treasurer; F. M. McDowell, vice-president; William T. Morris, secretary; and W. W. Eastman, superintendent. They purchased the steamers *Urbana* and *Lulu* of the Keuka Navigation Company which was dissolved.

In 1887 the Crooked Lake Navigation Company built at Penn Yan and put upon the lake the steamer *William L. Halsey*, a boat slightly larger than the *Holmes*. The present officers of the company are as follows: Theodore O. Hamlin, president, secretary, and treasurer; H. M. Halsey, vice-president; W. N. Wise, superintendent; George E. Mumford, H. M. Halsey, George S. Weaver, J. W. Davis, George Gibson, J. H. Coryell, W. W. Quackenbush, and T. O. Hamlin, directors. On January 1, 1890, the owners of the Lake Keuka Navigation Company sold out to Charles W. Drake of New York city.

On October 17, 1891, the Lake Keuka Navigation Company signed a contract with the Union Dry Dock Company of Buffalo, N. Y., for a new steamer 150 feet in length, twenty-five feet beam, steel hull, twin screws, double boilers, two triple expansion engines of the capacity of 700 horse-power, and steam steering gear. The speed provided for in the contract is twenty miles per hour. The material and workmanship are to be according to the specifications required by the United States government in its contracts for first-class naval vessels. The cost of this boat, including its furniture and upholstery, will be something over \$40,000. The hull will be constructed in Buffalo, and the boilers, engines,



and other machinery will be constructed in Brooklyn, by the Cowles Engineering Company, who have furnished the machinery for many of the recently constructed very fast vessels, and the boat will be put together and launched at Hammondsport. The delivery to the company is guaranteed to be not later than May 15, 1892, which insures to the travellers on Lake Keuka additional accommodations for next season, which will in time revolutionize the inland lake traffic of this entire section of New York State. The construction of this boat is another step in the scheme for the development of Lake Keuka, adopted by the parties who have recently become so largely interested in it.

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## CHAPTER XX.

### HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF MILO, AND OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PENN YAN.

THE town of Milo, as at present constituted, occupies a prominent central position among the civil divisions of Yates County. Likewise it is the most important town in the county, deriving that character from the fact that within its territorial limits is located the greater portion of the village of Penn Yan, the seat of justice of the county; and although the village has a partial separate organization from the town, yet they are a unit as far as the election of town officers is concerned. Milo is also one of the larger towns of the county, and is the only one that has a front on the waters of Seneca Lake and also on Lake Keuka. This double frontage is of value to the town and its people in that the special product of the locality, the fruit of the vine, can be successfully grown on both the east and west sides in particular, while the interior lands are also made productive in the same industry by reason of their favorable situation between the lakes. The like condition may exist in other towns, but no locality, except Bluff Point in Jerusalem, perhaps, possesses natural advantages equal to Milo. But Bluff Point is an exceedingly high promontory of land, not valuable for

general agricultural pursuits, while Milo is a vast tract of comparatively level land, and has rich and fertile soil, which yields abundantly to the husbandman's efforts, both in farm and fruit products. In addition to this Milo possesses the principal water-course of the county, *i. e.*, the outlet of Lake Keuka, which in its flow from Keuka to Seneca Lake has a descent of 269 feet, affording a water-power not to be excelled in this region of the State. The building of a number of large mills along the outlet has made Milo something of a manufacturing locality, which, added to its other resources, makes this the most important town of the county. Milo is bounded on the north by Benton and Torrey; east by Seneca Lake; south by Starkey and Barrington; and west by Lake Keuka and the town of Jerusalem. Originally the town of Milo formed a part of the district of Jerusalem, an organized territory in the nature of a township, and embracing the greater portion of what is now Yates County, and forming a part of Ontario County at that time. In 1803 the town of Benton was formed and organized, and included within its boundaries all that is now Benton, Milo, and Torrey. At first the new formation was called Vernon, but as that name had been given to another town in the State, Vernon was changed to Snell; and still later, on account of a dissatisfaction that had arisen over that name, to Benton, in honor of Levi Benton, the first settler within the town now so called.

In the survey of this region under the ownership of Phelps and Gorham, a subject fully treated in a preceding chapter, the greater part of what is now Milo was designated as township No. 7, first range, containing, presumably, thirty-six square miles of land. Being in the first range the eastern boundary of township No. 7 was the old pre-emption line. Had not difficulties and complications followed the first survey of the line referred to, it is probable that Milo, as afterward organized, might have contained only the territory of township No. 7, but on account of what did occur after the survey, the region to the eastward was annexed to and formed a part of this town. Township No. 7 was one of the several areas of land which were conveyed by proprietors Phelps and Gorham to the New York Genesee Land Company, better known as the lessees, in satisfaction to them for the withdrawal of their claims to the Genesee country under their famous long lease. By the

grantees the lands of the town were set off into lots and drawn for by the stockholders of the company. However, there was a strip of land in No. 7, and commonly called "the garter," which was conveyed by Caleb Benton, on behalf of the lessees, to James Parker for the Society of Friends, embracing 1,104 acres bordering the pre-emption line on the west side.

To the eastward of the old pre-emption line lay a vast area of fertile lands, claimed alike by the lessees and the State. Also there was the tract known as Lansing's Location. The Friends, the pioneer settlers of the region, made two purchases of these lands embracing 14,000 acres, the deed therefor being executed by the governor to James Parker, William Potter, and Thomas Hathaway, as representatives of the Friends Society. The land between the old and new pre-emption lines was deeded to the Friends' agents by Charles Williamson, he representing the English owners as successors to Robert Morris. The latter became owner through a conveyance to him by Phelps and Gorham. There were other owners of lands now a part of Milo, which were found to be within the proper and intended Phelps and Gorham purchase on what was called the gore, but to these owners the State of New York was obliged to make restitution and satisfaction.

According to the survey of the town of Milo, or rather of township No. 7, range one, the western line brought a small portion of its territory to the west of Lake Keuka. This never became a part of the town proper upon its organization, but was annexed to and made a part of Jerusalem, upon the organization thereof in 1803. The town of Milo, as a distinct and separate jurisdiction of Ontario County, was brought into existence by an act of the legislature passed at the session of 1818. The first proposed name for the town was Milan, but as another town of that name was formed about the same time, Samuel Lawrence, one of the representatives in the Assembly from Ontario County, suggested for this town the name of Milo; but why so named neither record or tradition furnishes an explanation. As originally constituted Milo embraced all of township No. 7, first range, except the portion west of Lake Keuka, and all the territory east of it and west of Seneca Lake. The town was called upon to surrender a portion of its lands to the formation of Torrey, all of which is fully explained and narrated in the chapter relating to that town.

*Pioneer Settlement.*—The first settlers in Milo were members of the Society of Universal Friends, who came to the region in 1788 and located upon lands the ownership of which they knew not of. As a matter of fact, at that particular time there was a question of some doubt as to whom the lands did rightfully belong; whether to Phelps and Gorham, the Lessee company, or to the Senecas of the Six Nations. But the Friends made their settlement and improved the lands, not in defiance of any right of others, but because the country was congenial to them, and they must have had some firm belief that they could acquire title without difficulty or disturbance. This they afterward did acquire. But the settlement by the Friends is not a proper subject of narration in this connection, as the site occupied by them was set off from Milo and made a part of Torrey, and as such will be found treated in the history of that town.

The settlement of the Friends occupied in particular that portion of the town of Milo that was formed into Torrey, but in general their settlements reached out into the western localities from the lake, and extended even into what became Benton. The names of the members of the Friends Society are mentioned in one of the earlier chapters of this work, and therefore no repetition need be made in this connection. Neither is it necessary to this chapter that they be mentioned otherwise than as pioneers of the locality.

In 1869 Samuel V. Miller and Job L. Babcock, acting in the interest of the Yates County Historical Society, by patient and persistent effort succeeded in making a reliable list of the early settlers of Milo; those who dwelt on what were then the leading north and south thoroughfares of travel through the town, and which were commonly known as the Lake road, the Bath road, the Telegraph road, and the East road. The results of their labors were reported to the society and eventually were given publicity through the press of Penn Yan. From their report it is learned that the first settlers on the Lake road, commencing at the Barrington line and following northward, were these persons: Jeremiah Decker, Henry Jacobus, Jonathan Gillis, James Goble, Mr. Wilson, T. Dixon, W. Helms, John Haight, Simeon Jacobus, Warren Smith, Dr. E. Shattuck, and George Lamb, each of whom is credited with having lived on their respective lands in 1806, and are presumed to have



made their settlements about that time. John McDowell is said by the report to have settled at the foot of the lake in 1802, although his descendants contend that his settlement was made there in 1792.

On the Bath road, so-called, commencing where George W. Plympton now lives and going southward, the pioneer settlers were John Reywalt, Joseph Quick, J. W. Hedges, William Yager, Levi Macomber, Charles Lockwood, Charles Bundy, Simeon Thayer, sen., William Bailey, Joshua Beard, Hiram Post, Samuel Boots, William Hedges, Isaac Hedges, Ezra Cummings, Benjamin Thompson, Moses Thompson, Jonathan Bailey, John Seeley, and George Marring. These also are credited with having been settlers in 1802 and 1803.

The road south of Penn Yan has had less inhabitants, there appearing only the names of Peter Coldren, J. Hollenbeck, Susannah Clau-ford, Peter Althiser, and Philip Yokum. They were settlers of 1802 and 1803. On the east road there appears these names: Thomas and Israel Ferris, Jedediah Royce, Lewis Randall, Samuel Lockwood, Abraham Downing, Deacon Maples, Ezra Smith, John Culp, John Capell, Rev. Ferris, Reuben Ferris, Peter Eastman, Noah Russage, Jonathan Rector, Abraham Ferris, James Randall, Absalom Travis, John Miners, John R. Powell, Roger Sutherland, Abraham Prosser, Benjamin Downing, Peter Heltibidel, George Gardner, Abner Gardner, R. Champlin, Simon Sutherland, credited with having settled about the years 1802 and 1803. On the road east from the lake dwelt about the same time Ephraim Althiser, Philemon Baldwin, and David Hall.

Let the present generation of dwellers in Milo glance over the foregoing roll, and then see how very few of them can trace their ancestry back to the residents along these roads during the first years of the present century. It was indeed an arduous task to enumerate them, how much more difficult would it be to take each named head of the family and relate who they were, where they came from, who were their children, and finally, what eventually became of each of them. No person now living could accurately do this work.

*Records of Early Families.*— John and Peleg Briggs were pioneer settlers on the location where is now the hamlet called Milo Center. They were followers of the Friend. The children of John and Elizabeth (Bailey) Briggs were John, jr., David, Ruth, Ann, and Esther. The Briggs family came to this locality from North Kingston, Rhode Island.

Adam Hunt and Mary his wife were natives of Rhode Island, and came to the Friend's settlement as pioneers, locating near Milo Center on the Garter. Their children were Sarah, Silas, Mary, Abel, Hannah, Lucy, and Lydia.

Lewis Birdsell settled on lot 18, in 1792. He contracted with Enoch Malin to build the first dam, flume and saw-mill at the foot of Main street in Penn Yan, for a consideration equivalent to fifty-five pounds. Shortly afterward Mr. Birdsell sold the property to David Wagener and moved to Seneca County.

Thomas Lee and Waty (Sherman) Lee, his wife, with a large family, settled on lot two, in 1790. Their children were Abigail, Mary, Elizabeth, Waty, Joshua, Nancy, Patience, Thomas, jr., James, and Sherman.

John Lawrence, follower for a time of the Friend, came to Milo from New Bedford, Mass. He was one of the leading men of the settlement and in comfortable circumstances. His wife was Anna Hathaway, relative of the prominent Thomas Hathaway. The children of John and Anna Lawrence were Melatiah, Mary, Samuel, Reliance, Anna, Olive, John, Sabra, and Silas. John Lawrence, the pioneer, built the first mill structure on the privilege now utilized by John T. Andrews.

William W. Aspell and family settled near Milo Center in 1816. He was born in Ireland. His children, by a second marriage, however, were David B., Mary A., and Elizabeth S.

Richard Henderson was born in Ireland March 17, 1767, and died January 23, 1850. His wife, Anna Wagener, was born September 10, 1777, and died November 13, 1864. Their children: Samuel, born March 5, 1797, married Harriet Arnot, and died April 12, 1834; David, born December 25, 1798, married December 9, 1819, died February 15, 1883; Maria, born August 11, 1800, married Samuel Gillette May 9, 1820, died April 6, 1886; Mary, born March 16, 1803, married Johnson A. Nichols, died April 16, 1889; Rebecca, born November 8, 1805, married George Nichols, first, and afterward Nehemiah Raplee, lives at Bath; Elizabeth, born January 14, 1809, married Caleb J. Legg, lives in Torrey; Richard, born January 15, 1810, died May 15, 1864; Anna B., born July 11, 1812, married Barnum Mallory, lives in Illinois; Jane, born June 1, 1814, married Smith L. Mallory, lives west; Harriet, born November 17, 1816, married Louis Millard, lives in Dundee; James W.,

born March 19, 1819, married Martha A. Drake, and lives at Milo Center; Rachel, born July 9, 1821, married James C. Longwell, lives at Penn Yan. Children of Richard and Rosalinda Henderson: Samuel S., born October 9, 1836; Charles, born February 27, 1838, died May 28, 1872; Marvin and Marsden, born April 2, 1842; James A., born October 6, 1845. Richard Henderson, the pioneer, settled between Milo Center and Himrods about the year 1795.

Josiah Jones and family settled near Himrods in 1806. His wife was Sarah Ellis, who, as well as himself, was a native of Rhode Island. Their children were Timothy, Seth, Nancy, Abigail, Eunice and Lydia (twins).

George and Hannah Davids Fitzwater, husband and wife, came to Milo from Pennsylvania in 1799. Their children were John, Sarah, George, Hannah and Thomas (twins), and Rachel.

Samuel Castner was a pioneer of Milo. His wife was Mary Magdalene, daughter of David Wagener. Their children were Rebecca, Mary Ann, Rachel W., Ann M., Elizabeth, and Susan S.

Eliphalet Norris was born in New Hampshire in 1763, and in 1792 came to this town, locating at what became known as Norris' Landing, where he established a trading store. In 1793 he married Mary, daughter of Thomas Hathaway, who bore him five children, viz.: Thomas H., Benjamin G., George W., James H., and Joshua F.

Silas Spink settled on the Gore in 1790. He was a native of Rhode Island, and journeyed to the home of the Friends in company with several other persons who sought a home in the New Jerusalem. Silas Spink married Martha Briggs, and had two children, Mary and Silas W. Spink.

John Supplee was a pioneer on the Friends tract, coming thither from Philadelphia prior to 1790. In that year he married Achsa, the daughter of Jonathan Botsford. Mr. Supplee first located in Torrey, but after one or two years moved to the locality of Himrods. He was one of the early distillers of the region, but in 1815 turned his attention to the more agreeable occupation of running a saw-mill on Plum Point. He, in 1825, built two small river boats, named respectively *Trader* and *Farmer*, in which lumber, grain, and produce were carried to Albany. Peter, John, and Jonathan were the children of John and Achsa Supplee.

Mary Gardner, the wife of George Gardner, formerly of Rhode Island,

became one of the early settlers in the Friends colony. Her husband remained in the East, and she and her children, Dorcas, Abner, and George, came to the Genesee country, locating first near the Friend's home, but later moved to Milo. Dorcas Gardner married Eleazer Ingraham, jr., and had seven children: John, Abigail, Mary, George, Rhoda, Rachel, and Nancy. Abner Gardner married Mary Champlin, and had these children: Mary, George W., Rowland J., and Abner. Abner, sen., died in 1860, and his wife two years earlier.

Another of the pioneers of Milo was Stephen Card, whose settlement dates back to 1788. Both he and his wife, Hannah Card, were natives of Rhode Island. Stephen Card and John Reynolds cleared the land and sowed the first wheat west of Seneca Lake. Mr. Card first settled near City Hill, but afterward moved to a farm near Himrods. The children of Stephen and Hannah Card were John and Sarah Card. Isaac and Anna (Boon) Nichols were numbered among the Rhode Island contingent of pioneer settlers in Milo. They were followers of the Friend, steadfast and true. Isaac Nichols located on the Garter, and after him the place was named Nichols's Corners, afterward and now known as Milo Center. Isaac Nichols died in 1829, and his wife nine years later. Their children were George, Alexander, Benjamin, and Jacob. George married Hannah Green, and had one child, George B. Nichols. Alexander married Polly or Mary Chambers, and by her had these children: Josiah G., Johnson A., Alexander, and Loring G. Nichols.

John Plympton and Rhoda, his wife, both natives of Massachusetts, came to Milo in 1795, and settled on lot 17. John died at Deerfield, Oneida County, and his wife in 1833, at West Bloomfield. Their children were Esther, Rachel, Moses A., Aaron, Rhoda, John, Polly or Mary, and Henry. Aaron Plympton married Elizabeth Heltibidal, by whom he had four children, Daniel L., George W., Ezra W., and Mary E.

Aaron Bayard and his family were pioneers of Benton, having settled in that town in 1798. Their children were Joshua and Benedict. The former married Martha Blake, and moved in 1811 to Milo, locating on lot 72. Their children were Allen, Samantha, Martha Ann, Eme-line, Marietta, Franklin, Calista, Serepta, and John B.

Sarah Sutherland, widow of Stephen Sutherland, of Dutchess County, N. Y., with three of eleven children were early settlers of Milo. The



children referred to were Mead, Lewis, and William. From these three sons have descended the several members of the Sutherland families who now live in Milo.

Isaiah Youngs settled in 1802 on the Potter location, near Seneca Lake. He was a native of New Jersey and there married Mary Haggerty. Their children were Experience and Temperance (twins), Stephen, Peter, George, Mary, and Benjamin. George Youngs was prominently connected with the early history of his town, and of the village of Penn Yan. He married Rebecca Pitney, by whom he had these children: George R., Isaiah, Caroline, Harriet, Rebecca, and Phebe Ann.

Thomas Bennett and Charity (Hedges) Bennett, his wife, became settlers on lot 29 in 1812. After clearing and improving a farm Mr. Bennett moved his family to Starkey. Their children were David J., Polly, Elizabeth, Jerusha, Abraham H., Esther, Thomas, Sally, Samuel, Nancy, Stephen, Mehitable, Sophia, and Charity.

Benajah and Joshua Andrews were pioneers in the Friend's settlement. The former was an early school teacher, and the latter was a merchant. Benajah died during young manhood. Joshua married, in 1792, Mary, daughter of Thomas Lee, sen. Their children, Jeremiah B., Elizabeth, Sarah, and Maria.

John Buxton was born in Yorkshire, England, August 5, 1764, and came to this country, and to Milo, in 1800, his family at that time consisting only of himself and wife. Their children were Catharine, John, Thomas, Bridget, and Mary Ann. John Buxton, jr., married Lois Lord, of Sharon, Conn., by whom he had three children, John J., Lois Lavina, and William W.

George Goundry and his wife, Elizabeth (Heslop) Goundry, were both of English birth. In 1798 they came to America and to Geneva. George was employed to look after the Hopeton mill, which brought him to this county. In 1802 he bought a farm on the Garter. The children of George and Elizabeth Goundry were Thomas, Elizabeth, Catharine, George, Ann, Julia A., Matthew, and Cornelius.

Jephtha F. Randolph and his family came from New Jersey and settled on lot 15 of the Potter tract in 1809. His children were William, John, Daniel, David F., Finch F., Eliza, Morris, Jephtha F., and Azariah.

John and Solomon Finch, brothers, with their families settled on Seneca Lake in 1808. John moved from this town to Michigan. Solomon married Sally Randolph, by whom he had eleven children, viz.: Azariah, Nathaniel, David, Solomon, John R., Betsey, Keziah, Catharine A., Caroline, Jeffrey, and Lewis. The second wife of Solomon Finch was Phylura Markham.

Amzi Bruen, the ancestor of the Bruen families now living in Milo, was born in New Jersey in 1799. His wife was Catharine Hall, daughter of John A. Hall. The children of Amzi and Catharine Bruen were John H., George, Sarah A., Horace R., Eveline H., Austin H., and Augustus.

The pioneer of the Struble family in Milo was Adam Struble, who was of Holland Dutch descent, but himself a native of New Jersey. His wife was Mary Dean. In 1814 the family came to Milo and settled near Himrods. Adam Struble died in 1867 and his wife, Mary, in 1868. Their children were Moses, Henry, Levi, Louisa, Dean, Sidney, Phebe, Ira, Hannah, Elizabeth, Morgan, Fowler, and Ellen. Hanford Struble, the present county judge of Yates County, and Dr. Henry A. Struble are sons of Levi Struble by his marriage with Mary Misner. Among the forty or more pioneers from Pennsylvania, who with their families settled near Himrods, was Malachi Davis and his family. His wife was Catharine Gilkerson, and the children who came to this town were Jonathan, Samuel, Rachel, Jesse, John, Malachi, and Nathaniel.

Jacob Fredenberg is said to have been a settler in Milo of earlier date than the Friends. He was a refugee from Massachusetts, having fled the State during the famous Shay's rebellion, and took up his abode with his wife and children on Jacob's Brook, in the north part of Milo as afterward organized. He is said to have come here in 1787. The Senecas permitted the settlement but restricted his liberties.

The family of James Knapp settled in Milo in 1815. He had been a soldier of the Revolution, and was with General Sullivan on his famous campaign against the Senecas. His wife was Lucy G. Ball. Their children were Anna B., Samuel C., Augustus, and Pamela. Augustus Knapp married Margaret Heltibidal, by whom these children were born: George H., Marsena V. R., Aaron P., Samuel A., Mary L., Charles F., Oliver C., William C., and Franklin.

In 1803 Jonas Yocum, Philip Yocum, his son, George Heltibidal, son-in-law, John Reýnalt, and Peter Coldren with their families came from Northumberland, Pa., and settled near Penn Yan. George Heltibidal was a man of influence and large means, and had much to do with the early affairs of the locality. He died in 1808. His children were Elizabeth, Peter, Catharine, George, Polly, Jacob, Margaret, Phebe, and John.

David Lee came from Putnam County and located at the foot of the lake in 1812, but afterward moved to Pulteney. His wife was Patty Mead, by whom he had eight children: Polly, Jacob, Robert, Rachel, Joseph R., Jehiel, Erastus, and David B.

In 1801 John Capell, then a resident of Middlesex, Mass., married Sally Blood and immediately afterward came to Yates County and to Milo, where he worked at his trade, that of millwright. He eventually moved to a farm just out of Penn Yan. The children of John and Sally Capell were Harriet, Columbus, John, Eliza Ann and Mary Ann (twins), Daniel, Racelia, Henry, William P., Emily, and Thomas A.

Simeon Thayer was the pioneer in Milo of a family that has been as prolific as perhaps any in the town. He was born in this State, as also was his wife, Elizabeth Lucas, whom he married in 1805. They first settled on Lot 35, but afterward moved to the lake shore about five miles from Penn Yan. Their children were Jacob, Joseph, James, Samuel, Sally Ann, Simeon, David, William, Laura, Emeline, Reuben, Andrew, and John.

Samuel V. C. Miller was a native of New Jersey, born in 1781. In 1806 he married Esther Cutter, also of New Jersey, and came to Milo in 1822, settling on the Lake road. Samuel, the pioneer died in 1852, and his wife in 1858. Their children were Maria, Isabel, John C., Sarah F., Samuel V., Abram and Esther (twins), Susan C., Ephraim C., David, Phebe A. W., Stephen W., and Robert F.

Libbeus and Comfort (Booth) Cleveland were natives of Vermont, but became residents of Milo in 1811. They were the parents of four children: Hannah, Naomi, Stephen H., and Harriet. Comfort Cleveland died in 1831, and in 1839 Libbeus married Lavina Onderdonk.

Augustus Chidsey, native of Connecticut, became a resident of Milo in 1817, settling on lot 17. His wife was Anna Rathbun, by whom he

had five children : Freeloove, Augustus C., Sarah, Samuel B. and Joseph. His second wife was Sarah Bidlack, who bore him three children, Frank, Anna, and Ambrose.

Charles and Catharine (Smith) Babcock were natives of Connecticut and New York respectively, and became residents of Milo in 1816, settling on lot 45. Both died in 1829. Their children were Job, Eunice, Abiram, and Stephen.

Thomas Baxter was born at Kinderhook, N. Y., in 1776, and his wife Lavina Benjamin Baxter, was born ten years later. They lived for many years in Seneca County, but in 1839 moved to Milo, locating on lot 29. He died in 1864. Their children were Mahala, William, Elizabeth, Isaac, Phebe, Caroline, and Gilbert.

Terry Owen and his wife, who before marriage was Polly Finch, both of Orange County, N. Y., came to Milo in 1810, settling near Seneca Lake, south of Dresden. Terry died in 1821 and his wife in 1844. Their children were Nathaniel, Hannah, Jonathan, William, Julia, Daniel, Ira, Isaac, and Maria.

Three brothers and one sister, Frederick, William, Luther, and Sophia Spooner, children of Benjamin and Freeloove Spooner, settled in Milo during the pioneer period, about or after 1800. Frederick and his wife Martha were parents of four children : Calvin, Benjamin, Polly and Berlin. William's children were William, Elizabeth, Bennett, Polly, Alanson, and Cynthia. The children of Luther and Hannah (Allen) Spooner were Luther, Allen, Freeloove, Benjamin, Leonard T., and James C.

Peter Eastman and Sarah his wife located on the "Pine Tract" in Milo in 1818. They afterward moved to Seneca County, Ohio. Their children were John W., Daniel W., Polly, James T., Peter O., Moses W., William W., Henry M., and Charles L.

George F. Swarthout was the fifth son of Anthony Swarthout, jr., and was born in the town of Ovid, October 28, 1790. He married Rowena Russell, of Barrington, December 3, 1818, and settled in Barrington in 1819. In 1843 he settled in Milo, three miles south of Penn Yan, where he died July 13, 1853. His children were Seymour, William R., Irene, Willis, Norton R., Anthony, John, George, Nancy N., and Heman S.

John Armstrong settled on lot 12, on land purchased by his father in



1793. His wife was Sarah Embree whom he married in 1822, and by whom he had two children, Mary Ann and Henry. The former was born in 1823 and died in 1858. Henry was born in 1824, married first Adaline Hunt, by whom he had three children, Charles H., Marion, and John. His second wife was Mercy J. Briggs. The youngest son, John, now lives on the old farm. He married Lucy, daughter of John Sheppard, and has one child.

Charles Roberts came from Philadelphia to Milo in 1799. He married Hannah Stone and settled on lot 14, near Milo Center. He was the first town clerk of Milo, holding that office from 1818 to 1837. He died in 1839, and his wife in 1861. Their children were Charlotte, Charles H., Robert, and Clarissa.

Andrew Stone was a pioneer of Milo. His wife was Mary Davis, by whom he had these children: Jesse, Hannah, Sarah, John, Mary, Samuel, Andrew, Ruth, and Eliza. The family came to the county in 1799. Thomas Hollowell was the head of a pioneer family in Milo, which family consisted of his wife and three children, William, Joseph and Thomas. William was born in 1774, and married Hannah Hunt. Joseph, born in 1776, married Eleanor Smith, of Milo, who bore him ten children: Mary, Thomas, Joseph, Hannah, Ann, Martha, William, John B., James, and George.

In addition to the above families of parents and one generation of their descendants, all of whom were pioneers in Milo, there can also be mentioned others who are also to be placed in the same class, and a faithful record requires at least the mention of their names. Peter H. Brown settled in the town in 1816. John Corner and his family came here in 1812. Allen Vorce and his family settled on lot 51 in 1818. Jonathan J. Hazard and Patience his wife and their family became residents of Milo during the early years of this century. Their children were Jonathan J., Griffin B., Joseph H., Thomas, Susanna, and Abigail. The Perry family were early settlers in the town, and were in good numbers. The children of the pioneer parents, James and Elizabeth Perry, were Thomas, Lewis, Phebe, David, Enos, Abigail, Amarillis, Delila, and William. Gilbert Baker became a settler on lot 8 in Milo, in 1811. His wife was Margaret Connor, by whom he had children, viz.: John C., Samantha, Jane, Darius, Lucinda, Eliza, Jonathan G., Cynthia, and Gilbert D.

Where now is situated the principal business portion of the village of Penn Yan, was prior to 1796 an extensive area of untilled and uninhabited land. In that year David Wagener became the owner by purchase of nearly all this tract, extending north to about the present Court street, and including about 275 acres of land. David Wagener was the head of one of the most prominent pioneer families of Yates County, and he was, moreover, a faithful and ardent follower of the Friend. He was born January 25, 1752. His wife, Rebecca Supplee, whom he married January 13, 1774, was born November 25, 1749. As near as can be determined at this time, David Wagener came to the New Jerusalem in 1791, from which will be discovered the fact by reference to the following record, that nearly all of his children were natives of Pennsylvania, near or at Norristown, from whence the family came to Yates County. The children of David and Rebecca were as follows: Abraham, born November 9, 1774; Mary Magdalene, born February 14, 1776; Anna, born September 10, 1777; Melchoir, born January 31, 1779; Elizabeth, born August 27, 1780; David, born April 27, 1783; Rebecca, born January 1, 1785; Lament, born November 13, 1787; Rachel, born September 11, 1789; Rebecca (2d), born February 1, 1794.

It is said that David Wagener came to live upon his lands at Penn Yan soon after making the purchase; and that he dwelt for a time in a log house. In 1796 he commenced the erection of a saw-mill on the south side of the outlet, but in constructing a dam across that stream contracted a severe cold that ultimately resulted in his death. He died August 26, 1799, and his body was buried in the cemetery west of where the village was built up. He donated this land for burial purposes, and was himself the first person to be interred therein.

To his eldest child, Abraham, David Wagener devised that part of his lands which lay north of the outlet, while to his second son, Melchoir, likewise descended the lands south of the stream. Abraham subsequently purchased Melchoir's portion and the latter moved to Pultney. Abraham came upon the lands immediately following the death of his father, completed the improvements the latter had begun, and became one of the foremost men of the county. No man contributed more than he to the establishing and building up the village. The story of his life

and actions is told on later pages of this chapter, relating particularly to village history.

Abraham Wagener settled near Himrods in 1792, but afterward moved to Penn Yan. On May 26, 1796, he married Mary Castner, by whom he had seven children: David, Samuel, Jacob, William, Mary, Charles, and George. In 1809 Mary, wife of Abraham Wagner died, and in 1811 he married Joanna Edmandson of Philadelphia, who bore him these children: Abraham N., George, Annette, Henry N., Henrietta, Henrietta (the first child of that name having died in extreme infancy). Abraham Wagener died May 21, 1853.

The surname Sheppard is well known throughout Yates County. The pioneer of this prominent family was Morris F. Sheppard, born at Germantown, Pa., November 28, 1774. In 1799 Mr. Sheppard came to Penn Yan. He had heard of the Friend, possible he knew her, but he never became her follower. By occupation Mr. Sheppard was a cloth fuller and established himself in that business soon after arriving here. Later he added a tannery to his business interests. On October 22, 1801, Mr. Sheppard married Rachel, daughter of Peter Supplee, by whom he had children as follows: George Ashbridge Sheppard, born September 11, 1802, died February 26, 1874; Sarah Fletcher Sheppard, born July 26, 1804, married September 14, 1843, to Eli Sheldon, died October 5, 1849; John Shoemaker Sheppard, born June 18, 1806, died at Geneva March 2, 1828; Charles Clement Sheppard, born June 9, 1808; Susan Sheppard, born February 26, 1812, died July 28, 1842.

Charles Clement Sheppard married, May 26, 1835, Jane W., daughter of Henry Bradley. Their children were Jane S., born July 21, 1838, married William Patteson, died in Chicago in 1865; John Shoemaker, born August 18, 1840, married January 21, 1866; Morris F. Sheppard, born July 20, 1843; Henry Bradley Sheppard, born July 10, 1845, died April 6, 1865; Susan Sheppard, born September 26, 1847, died April 24, 1861; Charles Clement Sheppard, jr., born October 20, 1851, died December 30, 1855; Sarah Fletcher Sheppard, born December 15, 1856, wife of Hatley K. Armstrong. Charles C. Sheppard died January 17, 1888.

Dr. William Cornwell came to Penn Yan about the year 1809. He was an educated physician, and in connection with his practice taught

school for a time. He also studied law and was admitted to practice. He married Sarah Chidsey, of an old and respected family of Milo, by whom he had ten children: John, Achsa Ann, Emily, William Augustus, Henry Baldwin, Elizabeth, Samuel, Caroline, George Rathbun, and Frances Helen.

Those who have been mentioned in the foregoing brief sketches were pioneers in Milo, and upon them fell the burden of the labor incident to all pioneer improvements. They, and perhaps others whose names are now lost, paved the way for succeeding generations of their children and their childrens' children; and substantial has been the reward and inheritance left to many of them. Of the old pioneers the majority were probably farmers, while some wrought at trades, and still others were merchants or manufacturers. But each and all of them were earnest, industrious workers in the direction in which nature best endowed them with qualities of mind, body and heart.

Pioneer settlements in Milo began with the coming of the Friend's colony in 1788, and so rapid was the growth in population and development that the year 1820 found the town to possess 2,612 inhabitants, about 400 families, and there were then in operation seven grist-mills, fourteen saw-mills, three fulling-mills, one oil-mill, four carding machines, six distilleries, three asheries, and two trip-hammers. Today the town has but three grist-mills, no fulling-mills nor carding-machines, no more than three saw-mills, and fortunately but one distillery.

In 1818 the town of Milo was set off from Benton and given an independent corporate organization. The first town meeting was held April 7th, at the house of Isaac Nichols, and then the first town officers were elected as follows: Avery Smith, supervisor; Charles Roberts, town clerk; George I. Remer, collector; Benedict Robinson, George Nichols, and George Youngs, assessors; Richard Henderson and Roger Sutherland, overseers of the poor; Isaac Hedges, David Briggs, and Solomon Finch, commissioners of highways; Isaac Nichols, Thomas Hathaway, and Allen Vorce, school commissioners; Samuel Henderson, Joel Gillette, John Randolph, James N. Edmondson, Peter Young, and Luther Sisson, school inspectors; George I. Remer, Stephen Youngs, David J. Bennett, and Walter Wolcott, constables. Prior to 1855 the annual town meetings were held at Milo Center, but the setting off of



Torrey in 1853, and the increase in number of inhabitants in and about Penn Yan, so changed the center of population in the town that a vote of the electors determined upon the county seat as the place for holding elections.

The designation of Penn Yan as the seat of justice of Yates County gave Milo an important advantage over the other towns, and was of the greatest benefit, directly and indirectly, to the people of the town. The civil jurisdiction of Milo extends over and includes the village, and the whole people, electors, unite in the election of town officers. This situation has advantages and objections, but these are not proper subjects for discussion here. Penn Yan has a corporate character independent from Milo, and elects its own officers for municipal government. Likewise the village of Penn Yan has a history which is distinct from that of the town at large, and this is made the subject of special and extended mention on the later pages of the present chapter. Outside of the village of Penn Yan Milo has three trading localities or centers, but neither of them has ever organized a population of importance sufficient to entitle it to any corporate character. The hamlets of Milo are Himrods, Milo Center, and Second Milo as at present known.

Himrods, the hamlet proper, is located on lot No. 6 of the Potter location, and was originally called Himrod's Corners, after Wilhemus L. Himrod, the founder of a store at the place in 1831. Through the village courses Plum Point Brook, a small stream having no present importance because of the devastation of the forests of the locality, but formerly furnishing power sufficient to run mills. Himrod's Corners was the name of the postoffice established here in 1832, and so continued for many years and until changed to the more dignified, and perhaps more appropriate name of Himrods.

But Himrod's Corners and Himrods have never succeeded in acquiring any special importance either in mercantile pursuits or in point of population. Its greatest glory was attained in the construction of the Northern Central Railroad, a condition subsequently slightly improved by the building of the Fall Brook line as at present known.

The pioneer industry of the hamlet, or its locality, was the distillery business established about 1794 by Richard Matthews; and this appears to have been about the only enterprise, except farming, that was con-

ducted in the vicinity until Mr. Himrod started his store in 1831. Stephen Card was a pioneer in the Friend's settlement, but in later years took up his residence where Himrods now is, and here he built and maintained a public house, such as the present generation would call a tavern or hotel. This he conducted for many years. The next hotel was that built by Garrett S. Ayers in 1835, which passed through several owners and finally was transformed into a double dwelling. In 1861 William S. Semans built the Eagle Hotel, a fairly large and well appointed hostelry. It is now the property of John Sheppard, and conducted by his son-in-law, Frank Knapp.

The mercantile business interests of Himrods have been represented by numerous proprietors since the time of Wilhemus Himrod, the succession including Gilbert R. Riley, Ellis & Baker, John and Jephtha F. Randolph, Marshall & Sherman, William S. Ellis, Philip Drake, Jonathan G. Baker, Miles G. Raplee, Peter Wyckoff, Cornelius Post, William S. Semans, Amos E. Van Osdol, Covert & Chubb, George Swartz and Hiram Swartz. The last two named are the present leading merchants of the village. In addition to these there may be mentioned the grain business of S. Nelson Jones.

The first Baptist Church of Milo is the only religious society having an abiding place at Himrods. The earlier meetings of this denomination in this locality commenced in the year 1803, and were conducted by Elder Simon Sutherland at Nichols Corners and other places best suited to the convenience of the members. In 1804 an organization was begun at the house of Thomas Hollowell, and completed in 1805, March 13th, at the Raplee school house at East Milo, then having a membership of twenty-nine persons. It was not until 1833 that the society had sufficient strength to erect a church home, but at the time named the edifice at Himrods was built at a cost of \$1,400. This house was used by the society until 1868, and then replaced by the present large and attractive church building. As this is the only church building at Himrods, or in that immediate vicinity, its congregation is made up of church goers of various denominations as well as by the Baptist portion of the community. The present membership reaches nearly 125. Among the ministers of the First Baptist Church of Milo can be recalled the names of Revs. Simon Sutherland, John B. Chase, B. R.

Swick, Enos Marshall, Hezekiah West, James Pease, J. Batchelder, A. Wells, J. Sabin, A. W. Sunderlin, J. Parker, A. B. DeGroat, M. Livermore, John Rooney, W. W. Holt, and others whose names have become lost.

In the extreme south part of the town of Milo, about two or three miles west from Himrods, in the Goundry neighborhood, so-called, was built many years ago a Freewill Baptist Church. The society was organized about or soon after 1838, the result of the labors of Stephen S. Lanning and Ezra F. Crane, ministers of the Freewill Baptist faith. Gilbert Baker was one of the most prominent leaders of the society, and the one upon whom fell a burden of the society's indebtedness. The church was built at Baker's Corners, on lot eight, at a cost of about \$1,250. The society was prospered for a time, but at length fell into a decline with result in final dismemberment.

Milo Center as commonly known but properly Milo, is a small hamlet of about two dozen houses, a store, a shop, hotel and possibly a few other light industries situated in the eastern-central part of the township. This point was originally known as Nichols Corners, so-called from the pioneer family of the locality, of which family Isaac Nichols was the head and parent. And even to this day the surname Nichols, representing descendants from the same ancestor, is frequent in this part of Milo. Isaac Nichols's son, Isaac, jr., appears to have been the prime mover in the endeavors to establish a village at this point, and whatever was accomplished in this direction was mainly due to him. He opened a public house at the Corners in 1820 and was the first postmaster after an office had been established there. George B. Nichols and Herman Smith were the pioneer merchants of the berg. During the stage coach period Nichols Corners or Milo was a point of some importance, but when railroads superseded the slower means of travel the village lost much of its old-time importance. It is now no nearer than a mile from Milo station on the Northern Central road.

During the period of its existence the Center has had a number of successful merchants, among whom can be recalled the names of Nichols & Smith, Joseph C. Stull, William Holden, Denreau & Fiero, Abel B. Hunt, Moses W. Eastman, George Hollowell, H. F. Anderson, Schuyler Sutherland, George W. and W. H. Millard. Among the va-

rious landlords, proprietors of the public house in the village, have been Isaac Nichols, jr., Philip Drake, Manchester Townsend, F. F. Randolph, John Clark, M. Depew, Patrick Byrne and others. The present landlord is Silas Spink.

The only public building at the village is the Milo Center Methodist Church, a society having an incipient organization as early as 1797, and drawing its membership from throughout the entire township. The pioneer meetings which resulted in the founding of the church were conducted by William Smith, a local preacher of some prominence. Early meetings were held at the Spink school-house, the log school house in the Friend's settlement, and at William Smith's and Joseph Hollowell's residence. In 1821, or about that time, the society became definitely organized, and in 1833 the articles of association were filed to make the organization perfect. A lot was purchased from Isaac Nichols, upon which, at a cost of \$2,000, the first church edifice was erected. It was dedicated in September, 1833. In 1862 substantial repairs were made, but in 1869 the building was remodeled and enlarged at an expense of \$4,000. Among the early class leaders were Samuel Kress, sr., Samuel Castner, Abraham Prosser, William W. Aspell, Thomas Goundry, Benjamin B. Spooner, M. D. Jackson, John B. Hollowell, Archibald Strobbridge, H. F. Anderson, P. J. Seeley, Samuel Depew, H. T. Aspell, William Hollowell, L. M. Millard, S. C. Hatmaker, N. B. Raplee.

Second Milo is the name that has been applied to one of the hamlets of the town of Milo, but this name appears to have been given the only public building of the place, viz., the Second Milo Baptist Church. Formerly and even to the present day this particular locality has been known as Cat Head. But Second Milo has never acquired much of a population; neither has it any important industries or business interests. The erection of the meeting-house brought to the place whatever of importance it possesses. The hamlet is situate in the central-western portion of the township, at the four corners made by the intersection of the telegraph road and the principal east and west thoroughfare of the town.

Although Second Milo is a settlement of no great extent, it is nevertheless the center of a rich agricultural district. In this locality are the excellent farms of James A. Thayer, Isaiah Youngs, Lewis Swarthout,



Ira Owen, Abner Gardner, Rowland J. Gardner, J. P. Castner, Andrew Longwell, Gilbert Baxter, Daniel Plaisted, Frank Maloney, and others of whom mention might worthily be made in the same connection. In fact this particular locality can boast of as rich and productive farm lands as can be found in Yates County, and the husbandmen resident hereabouts are as thrifty, progressive, and public-spirited as their lands are valuable.

West from Second Milo about one mile is historic ground, but connected with it is but very little known history. On the farm of Lewis Swarthout, on a little circular rise of ground of some two acres in extent, once stood a fortification of some kind, but by whom built, by whom occupied, and for what particular purpose, both record and tradition are silent; they furnish no satisfactory information. That the fort at one time existed there can be no shadow of doubt, for traces of it even at this late day are still discernible. The only mystery surrounding the subject grows out of the doubtful causes that necessitated its construction. Here was the interior country of the Senecas' vast possessions, and not within hundreds of miles was there an enemy; from which we reason that the Indians themselves could not have built the fortress. The French Jesuits and adventurers traveled the country of the Iroquois and built forts at various places for their own protection. But of the principal defenses erected by them we have sufficient record, and any mention of this one is not to be found. It is hardly fair or reasonable to suppose that this fort could have been the handiwork of a pre-historic race of occupants.

The Second Milo Baptist Church had its inception in the early meetings held by Elder Simon Sutherland during the first years of the present century, although it was not until the year 1832 that the society was provided with a church home. The first organization was effected in 1811 under the name of South Benton Baptist Church, for then Milo as a township was unknown. But when Milo was set off from Benton and formed into a township the name became inappropriate. There was already another Baptist society in the town, and for convenience and accurate designation the name of this society and church was changed to the Second Baptist Church of Milo, and afterward to the Second Milo Baptist Church. The first church building of the society was erected in 1832 at the southwest corner of lot 21, at a cost of

\$1,200. In 1851 a new meeting-house was built for the society on the same site at a cost of nearly \$3,000. Reuben P. Lamb was the first pastor of the society, he assuming the duties in 1830, and was ordained in 1831. He resigned in 1836 and was succeeded by Elder A. W. Sunderlin, the latter remaining fourteen years. Others in succession among the early pastors were Philander Shedd, John Smith, N. Ferguson, George Balcom, S. S. Bidwell, William Dunbar, Thomas Allen, and Moses Livermore. The Second Milo Baptist Church now numbers about 150 members.

The Ark has become one of the fixed institutions and localities of the town of Milo, and one which is deserving of at least a passing notice in this chapter. There once was a boat on Lake Keuka, called *Keuka*, which in the course of events became a wreck and was beached near the north end of the lake. Calvin Carpenter, an old lake sailor and boatman, purchased the abandoned craft, took from it its cabins, mounted them on a scow, and anchored near the now popular sulphur springs. The boat with its cabins was called *The Ark*, and from that time, 1850, to this present the locality has always been known as "The Ark." The investment by Mr. Carpenter was in the nature of a business venture and it proved a success. In 1873 the old structure was removed and replaced with a substantial frame building, but the old name was retained. In 1880 the property was sold to David E. Dewey, who has succeeded in building up the Ark and its surrounding locality into a popular summer resort.

*Manufacturing on the Outlet.*—From the foot of Lake Keuka to Seneca Lake the distance is about seven or eight miles. The surface of the former above the latter is 267 feet. From a time far back of the first white settlement in this region the discharge waters of Lake Keuka have passed through a narrow channel and coursed generally eastward through the present towns of Milo and Torrey, and eventually emptied into Seneca Lake. It was the falling of these waters over the rocks that first attracted the attention of the Friend's emissaries to this side of Seneca Lake, and they were the first to utilize the power for manufacturing purposes. From that time to this present the so-called outlet has been the chief center of manufacture in Yates County, and the greater portion thereof has been an industry of the town of Milo. At not less

than a dozen places along the stream, and at every point where the waters could be profitably diverted, has there been some industry built up and operated. During the first twenty-five or thirty years of the present century the manufactures were chiefly lumber, flour, feed, and potashes, while abundant have been the distilleries in the same locality. The saw-mills are all gone. The distilleries and potashes have likewise disappeared, and the flour and feed-mills number but three within the jurisdiction of Milo. Of the latter the farthest down the stream in this town is the present May's mills, the waters here being utilized for running a feed-mill and a saw-mill. This was one of the ancient Wagener mill-sites, and has passed through different ownerships and uses, at one time being the fulling mill of Caleb Legg, then of the Hendersons, and finally deeded to Walter May about twenty-two years ago.

In 1828 an act of the State legislature authorized a survey to be made in order to determine upon the advisability of constructing a canal of sufficient magnitude to admit of freight-boat passage between Seneca and Keuka Lakes. The scheme was found practicable and the result was that in April, 1829, the Crooked Lake Canal was ordered to be built. Work of construction was commenced in 1830 and was completed in 1833. It was eight miles long, but along its course it was found necessary to put in twenty-seven locks. Lake Keuka was its feeder and Seneca Lake its outlet. This canal was of inestimable benefit to Penn Yan and to the country up Crooked Lake, and while it took much of the water that was needful in supplying power to the factories along its course the owners derived great advantage in that they were aided by the canal in transporting their products to market. The canal was in operation about forty years and then abandoned by the State, but for a time it was maintained at the expense of interested manufacturers of the town and locality.

A few years after the abandonment of the old Crooked Lake Canal a few of the enterprising business men of Penn Yan, prominent among whom were Oliver G. Shearman, William H. Fox, John T. Andrews, 2d, Franklin E. Smith, George Wagener, and Calvin Russell, inaugurated a movement having for its end the building of a railroad along the line of the unused State highway. For this purpose they caused to be incorporated and organized the Penn Yan and New York Railway Com-

pany. Oliver G. Shearman was its president ; Franklin E. Smith, secretary ; Henry Tuthill, treasurer ; and Oliver G. Shearman, Henry Tuthill, John T. Andrews, 2d, William H. Fox, John S. Sheppard, George Wagener, Perley P. Curtis, John H. Butler, and Calvin Russell, directors.

In the face of many obstacles, and opposed by doubting influences on the part of ultra-conservative citizens and a few malcontents, these men set themselves to work to accomplish the task of procuring a line of road to connect Penn Yan and the lake with the Fall Brook line at Dresden. As an incentive they, or part of them at least, purchased the old Sheets & Castner and Gillett mills, which they moved back from Main street and then rebuilt, with results that are today apparent to every resident of the locality, although to the investors themselves it was a personal sacrifice and pecuniary loss. More than this, they raised the grade of the street in front of the mills and caused to be built the substantial stone arch bridge that now crosses the outlet in the very heart of the village.

In 1878, after many months of planning, and scheming, and arguing with the powers, they succeeded in obtaining from the legislature an act which authorized the Commissioners of the Land Office to convey to the Penn Yan and New York Railway Company all the lands between the blue lines of the Crooked Lake Canal, with certain reservations, restrictions, and conditions, which are not material to this narrative. The consideration of this transfer by the State was \$100, but the cost in fact to the proprietors of the enterprise and paid by them individually amounted to at least fifteen times that sum. Having at last secured a clean right of way from lake to lake by virtue of the deed referred to and the purchase of other interests, an arrangement was at once made with the Fall Brook Coal Company to build and equip the road. This work was completed about the 1st of August, 1884, and the first train passed over the line on the 3d of that month. Immediately after this event the Penn Yan and New York Railway Company sold, transferred, and set over to the Fall Brook Company all the right, title, and interest which the former had acquired, either from the State or from individuals. More than that the Penn Yan and New York Company paid their grantee company a bonus of \$20,000 for bringing about this much de-



sired consummation. This fund was created through the efforts of the local company, and was contributed by the generous residents, principally of Milo, Benton, and Torrey, and a few from Jerusalem.

This digression from the general course of our narrative has been suggested by the fact of the almost inseparable connection existing between the present operating railroad company and the several manufacturing interests along the line of its road. Each leans upon the other in a great measure, and their interests are mutual. The daily output of freight from the mills alone is said to average about seven or eight car loads. Passenger traffic must be added to this, also incoming freights, to furnish any adequate idea of the magnitude of the company's business.

However important or interesting might be the recital of history of the old mills that formerly and originally occupied the sites now used in the manufacturing on the outlet, the same cannot be done with any degree of accuracy or thoroughness. Therefore let them be passed, and let the attention of the reader be turned to the chiefest of those that do now exist, and which have contributed so much to the prosperity of the village and town during the last fifteen to twenty-five years. The manufacturing industries situated within the limits of the village will be found mentioned in that branch of the present chapter which relates particularly to the county seat; wherefore it becomes necessary to here refer to those that are located outside the village and in the town of Milo.

With the single exception of May's mills, the present operating industries on the outlet below the village limits and as far down as Dresden, are those devoted to the manufacture of paper from straw, and slightly from rags. The pioneer of this special industry in this locality was William H. Fox, who with his brother, under the name of L. & W. H. Fox, bought the old Youngs & Hewins mill, so-called, or rather the old Yates mills, formerly occupied for the manufacture of flour, feed, plaster, and as a saw mill, and converted it into a paper mill. This was in 1865. After about one year L. Fox retired from the firm, and W. H. Fox continued the business as sole proprietor until 1884, when Perley P. Curtis became a partner, under the style of Fox & Curtiss, which firm has operated continuously and successfully to the present time. Their

manufactures embrace all grades of wrapping paper, for which they operate two machines. The daily output of this firm runs from six to nine tons. The Fox & Curtis plant is called "Keuka mills."

The Cascade mill was started in 1867, by a company comprising George R. Youngs, William C. Joy, S. S. Raplee, and John Wilkinson. It was in Torrey, but as an industry incident to the outlet it may be appropriately mentioned here. The firm saw money in the paper making business, or at least they thought they did, but results showed differently. The plant was destroyed by fire, and about the same time the firm failed. After this the mill privilege was for some years idle, but in 1882 Charles J. Cave, of New York, purchased the site and erected on it a straw paper-mill, producing the same general commodity as do the others. This mill has two machines and puts out four or five tons of paper daily.

The Milo mills are the property of John T. Andrews, 2d, of Penn Yan. Near the site was formerly Tual's distillery. From that ownership it passed to Russell & Co., composed of Calvin and Henry Russell and Frank Krum. They bought the privilege about 1868, and distilled high wines until 1871, when the property was changed into a paper-mill. The firm dissolved about 1874, all its members except Calvin Russell retiring. In the spring of 1882, John T. Andrews, 2d, became Russell's partner, and so continued until December, 1888, and then succeeded to the entire ownership and management of the enterprise. Mr. Andrews made radical changes and enlargements to the property in 1889, in fact building an almost entire new factory. The new mill commenced making straw wrapping paper in April, 1890. It has three improved machines with a total capacity of about twelve tons of paper per day. This is the most extensive mill of its kind on the outlet, and one of the largest in the country.

The Seneca mills come next in point of time of founding. They are owned and operated by Russell & Co., Calvin Russell being the active partner in the concern. The firm has two machines with a capacity of six or eight tons of paper per day. The plant and property include an area of about forty acres. This mill also furnishes the electric light for Penn Yan village. This privilege was formerly used as a pulp-mill, and the site has a history reaching back into the early years of the century.

It is to be regretted that more particular mention cannot be made of this present large enterprise, but the most faithful inquiry directed to the active proprietor has failed of its chief purpose, and been unrewarded by data.

The Yates mills, so-called, until quite recently owned and operated by Shutts & Wilson, were started in 1887, succeeding the spoke factory and feed-mill formerly of Seymour Shutts, and afterward owned by John Shutts. During the late fall of 1891 the firm of Shutts & Wilson was dissolved, Mr. Wilson retiring. Soon after this the Shutts Manufacturing Company was incorporated and duly organized for the purpose of operating the mills. The product of this factory is straw board, or, more commonly known, card board. Under the new management the capacity of the mills is increased. A short distance below the Fox & Curtis mills stands an unoccupied factory building of good proportions and of fair appearance. Here was once a cloth-mill; then a flax-mill. Originally a saw-mill occupied this site.

In accordance with a generally observed custom in closing this branch of the present chapter, it is deemed expedient to append the succession of supervisors and justices of the peace of the town of Milo from the organization of the district to the present year. These are considered the leading offices filled at each town meeting; the supervisor being the power of the town, while the justice is regarded as his second in authority and importance. The succession is as follows:

*Supervisors.*—Avery Smith, 1818–23; Samuel S. Ellsworth, 1824–27; George Youngs, 1828–31; Jeremiah B. Andrews, 1832; James C. Robinson, 1833; Joshua Lee, 1834; Abel Buckley, 1835; Samuel Stevens, 1836; Gilbert Baker, 1837; George I. Remer, 1838; Jeremiah B. Andrews, 1839–40; Smith L. Mallory, 1841–42; Nelson Vorce, 1843; Ray G. Wait, 1844; Samuel J. Potter, 1845; Russell R. Fargo, 1846; Charles Lee, 1847; Adam Clark, 1848–49; William Baxter, 1850; James Lawrence, 1851–52; Charles Hubbard, 1853, '55; John C. Sheetz, 1854, 1860, 1863–67; Stephen B. Ayres, 1856; Daniel W. Streeter, 1857, '59; Nathaniel K. Beardsley, 1858; Charles Wagener, 1861, 1868; Melatiah H. Lawrence, 1862; Theodore Bogart, 1869–71, 1873; George D. Stewart, 1872; Franklin E. Smith, 1874; John C. Sheetz, 1875; Daniel Lanning, 1876–79; Evan J. Potter, 1880;

Rowland J. Gardner, 1881; Samuel S. Ellsworth, 1882-83; Franklin E. Smith, 1884; Edson Potter, 1885-87; Charles Hunter, 1888-89; William T. Beaumont, 1890-91.

*Justices of the Peace.*—James Parker was four times appointed justice of the peace, the third time in 1799, and again in 1804; Benedict Robinson in 1796; Eliphalet Norris in 1799; Hezekiah Townsend, in 1808, and held the office many years; Abraham Wagener in 1808, 1811, and 1820; Thomas Lee, in 1813; Morris F. Sheppard in 1813 and 1816. George Youngs and Henry Wisner were also justices by appointment. Since the office became elective the succession of justices, with dates of election, has been as follows: George Youngs, 1829, '33, '37, and '41; Avery Smith, 1830; Henry A. Wisner, 1831; Luther Sisson, 1832; George B. Nichols, 1834; Asa Norton, 1835; Samuel J. Potter, 1836, '40; R. G. Wait, 1838; Samuel Stevens, 1839; Darius A. Ogden, 1841; Amos Y. Carr, 1842, '46, '50; Thomas H. Locke, 1843, '47; Jesse Davis, 1844; A. J. McIntyre, 1845; Peter Youngs, 1848; Green Kenyon, 1849; Benjamin L. Hoyt, 1850, '53, '57, '61, '65, and '69; James V. Van Alen, 1851, '55; George Van Osdol, 1852; Hixson F. Anderson, 1854, '58, and '62; William S. Seamans, 1856, '60, '64, and '84; John Sloan, 1859; John L. Lewis, jr., 1863, '67, and '71; Jacob H. Sheppard, 1866, '70; Jephtha F. Randolph, 1868; J. Wells Taylor, 1871, '72, '80; D. A. Ogden, 1873; Charles D. Davis, 1874; Benjamin L. Hoyt, 1875, '79; D. F. Randolph, 1876; Lewis B. Graham, 1877; Charles D. Davis, 1878, '82, and '86; Abraham Gridley, 1881, '85; Delos A. Bellis, 1883, '87, '91; Garrett A. Bigger, 1888; William H. Fiero, 1889; David B. Aspell, 1890.

#### HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF PENN VAN, THE SEAT OF JUSTICE OF YATES COUNTY.

In the northern portion of township No. 7, of the first range, better and more commonly known as the town of Milo, at a point near and about the foot of Ogoyago, or Crooked Lake, where the waters find an outlet through a narrow channel, and eventually discharge into Seneca Lake, nature provided a splendid site upon which civilized man might build up a thriving, prosperous village. That consummation has been



reached, in fact was attained nearly three-quarters of a century ago, but each succeeding year has witnessed some material improvement, some development of new resources, until by slow stages it has grown to contain a population of more than 4,000 souls, and is provided with all the enterprises, the industries and commercial advantages that can be found in any interior village in the Empire State.

Little did that worthy old pioneer, that steady-going, honest plodder, follower of the "Friend," David Wagener, think or dream that on the tract of land bought by him in 1796, would ever be built up a municipality, and become the seat of justice of a county. But could David Wagener have lived a half score of years longer, and observed the march of improvement and settlement on his ancient estate, it is extremely doubtful if he would ever have consented to the adoption of that singularly odd and unique appellation of Penn Yan, for the little burgh. And it would have been an equally astonishing thing had that good and earnest pioneer been able to then look into the far off future and see standing where he built the primitive grist-mill, on the south side of the outlet, a large four-storied, modern structure, capable of manufacturing an hundred barrels of flour daily, when his own little mill could at best produce not more than one or two barrels in the same time. These, and a thousand and more of other changes might be recalled, to show the advancement in almost every branch of trade that has been worked in the last three-quarters of a century. These comparisons are interesting to old and young alike; to the aged, for they show that the grand march of improvement and progress in this locality has kept even step with the onward movement elsewhere, and interesting to the younger generations, for it brings to them an understanding of how their forefathers lived, and against what obstacles they had to contend to establish themselves securely in life and leave a goodly inheritance to their children.

The founding of a village where Penn Yan now stands was the outgrowth of necessity, and not of design. It was a natural consequence, and not the result of speculative schemes. David Wagener<sup>1</sup> bought

<sup>1</sup> In this connection the statement may be made that the northwest corner lot in Milo, No. 37, was originally the property of George Wheeler, a pioneer in Benton. The land was given by him to Robert Chissom and James Scofield, who are said to have settled thereon in 1791.

the lands because they were desirable, and not that he is believed to have contemplated the building up of a village. But Mr. Wagener did not live to enjoy the substantial fruits of his purchase in this immediate locality. He died in 1799, and his estate in lands, on which the village stands, was inherited by his sons, Abraham and Melchior Wagener. In area the estate embraced 276 acres, lying both north and south of the outlet; that part north of the stream fell to Abraham, while his brother became the owner of the lands on the south side. Eventually, however, Abraham succeeded to the ownership of the whole tract.

To Abraham Wagener, therefore, attaches all credit for taking the initial steps that resulted in a substantial village corporation. In 1801 he took active measures in having surveyed and constructed a highway leading from Canandaigua to Newtown (now Elmira). This road soon became an established mail route, and a postoffice was located soon afterward at Abraham Wagener's house. He was the first postmaster, and the name of the office was Jerusalem, being, as this locality then was, within the district called Jerusalem.

On the first of January, 1800, Mr. Wagener moved into "town," and occupied a dwelling built the year before for his use. This was the first frame building erected on the village site, and stood where later was the Miles Benham tavern, the old structure forming a part of the hotel as afterward established. The building was burned in 1841. When Mr. Wagener came here to reside there were three log cabins within his tract, all standing on the stream called Jacob's Brook, and occupied by Indians and their families. These primitive inhabitants were tenants by the sufferance of Mr. Wagener, they having no title nor claim to the land they occupied. They are said to have remained for a time, but the constant arrival of white settlers caused them to retire from the neighborhood.

The stream heretofore mentioned as "Jacob's Brook," a name by which it has ever since been known, has its source or head waters in the town of Benton, whence it flows into the village and passes through the business center, a few rods east of Main street, and discharges into the outlet in rear of the Russell & Birkett grist and feed-mill. Concerning the derivation of its name, Jacob's Brook, there has for many years been a difference of opinion, some authorities contending that the

name was applied in allusion to an old Indian who lived near the stream, and whose name was Jacob, while others assert that the name was given in reference to Jacob Wagener. The latter is probably correct.

For fourteen years after his appointment Abraham Wagener held the office of postmaster at his little village; but he was otherwise honored in public affairs. In 1808, he was appointed justice of the peace for the town of Snell, which then included all that afterward became Benton and Milo. This office Mr. Wagener held for about twenty-five years, and from his long continued incumbency thereof became generally known as "Squire" Wagener, by which name he was called as long as he lived.

Abraham Wagener, the founder in fact of the village, was in all respects the honorable, straightforward, public-spirited citizen; a man of large means and much influence in the town. The land on which the court-house was built was his voluntary gift, while also the main thoroughfare through the village was donated and laid out by him. Of course these things greatly enhanced the value of his property in the locality, but at the same time they forwarded the interests of other persons who, perhaps, were less able or less inclined to give than was he. Squire Wagener continued to reside in Penn Yan, as the village afterward was named, until 1833, in which year he moved to Bluff Point, where he occupied an elegant stone mansion which he had erected during that year. However, before his removal to Bluff Point, Squire Wagener built a second residence in the village, which stood on the land now in part occupied by the Knapp House, about where the dining-room of that hostelry is situated. This dwelling is believed to have been erected in 1816, and to it was given the name of Mansion House. This name was preserved in after years, when the building was changed in character and occupancy and put to hotel use. In rear of the house stood the old famous Wagener apple tree, so-called from its owner, the one who planted the seed, nourished and cultivated the sprout, and distributed its seed in return throughout the vicinity, the yield of which has always been known as the Wagener apple. Now the old Mansion House has become a part of the more modern Knapp House; the apple tree has been cut down that the land may be used for other purposes, and the founder of the village, its pioneer and most influential and useful citizen,



*M. L. Sheppard*





lies buried in the old cemetery which his father gave to the people for the interment of their dead.

The Wagener lands proper extended from the outlet northward to the immediate vicinity of what is now called Court street, while still farther north was another tract which passed through the same descent of title and ownership, and eventually found its way to divers owners. It was upon the latter tract that the first village was established, at the point where Head street crosses Main street. The highway first mentioned formed the dividing line between the towns of Benton and Milo, as afterward established, but the village was built up without reference to town lines. Therefore, the little hamlet lay in parts of two towns, but for some years, and until Milo was set off, all the people voted and acted in the same manner as if but one town held their village. When Milo was separated from Benton the residents south of the east and west road voted for their own town candidates, while those north of the road were subjects of Benton and voted for nominees therein. And even to the present day, notwithstanding the fact that the village has become incorporated as a city of the lesser class, the residents north of Head street are yet Benton people and vote as residents of that town for town officers, while those south of the street are citizens of Milo and vote for officers therein. In addition to this the residents within the corporate limits of the village of Penn Yan choose their own officers for local government, and in the corporation elections the people of the town do not participate.

While Abraham Wagener was undoubtedly the most prominent and influential man in the village during the days of its infancy, there were others who contributed in no small degree, building up and improving the locality during the same period. Morris F. Sheppard was one of the persons worthy of mention in this special connection. Like 'Squire Wagener, Mr. Sheppard was a native of Pennsylvania. He also was a pioneer in this locality, one of the early settlers in the little hamlet, and one who became identified with its business interests when the settlement was founded. He started a tannery and also a fulling or cloth-mill on his own lands, on Sucker Brook. These he conducted for several years, until the cutting away of the forest trees along the brook deprived him of a sufficient water supply, and thus compelled him to relinquish his manufacturing enterprises.

Mr. Sheppard was also the friend of and fellow-worker with 'Squire Wagener, and it was through their joint efforts that the village became an important point at so early a day. These men were the leaders of what has been conveniently termed the Pennsylvania element of local population, while the opposition, the Yankee contingent, were under the guidance of Mr. Stewart. After the senior Sheppard retired from active participation in business he was succeeded by his son, Charles C. Sheppard, who appears to have inherited his father's business qualities, and who also was a man of worth and capacity, not only during the early days of village life, but in after years, even down to a time within the memory of now middle-aged men.

In the same connection there may be mentioned the name of Asa Cole, whose place of abode and lands lay within the town of Benton. Asa was a pioneer farmer, and in connection with that occupation opened and for years maintained a hotel or tavern at the head of the street. The establishing of the public house was an important event in the early history of the village, as its vicinity at once became a center of trade. Here the stage drivers were wont to stop for rest and refreshment, and here the weary traveler found a comfortable lodging. In those days the hotel was a popular resort for all classes of people, where the news from abroad was always to be learned, while the landlord himself was generally regarded as somewhat above the average of mankind.

But at last the worthies who constituted the influential portion of the little settlement found themselves involved in a serious dispute, all because they could not agree upon a proper and fitting name for their village. Numerous conferences were held, but public sentiment was so divided that no result could be reached. In the meantime various names were given the village, but most of them were applied in a spirit of derision. A number of the residents called the place Unionville, while to outsiders, who viewed the controversy from a distance, it became known as Pandemonium. The Pennsylvanians of the locality wished a name that would recall some locality of their native State, while the Yankees, the settlers who came from New England, possessed an equally strong desire that a name be given that would suggest a locality from whence they emigrated. However, this difficult problem



*Eng.<sup>d</sup> by F.G. Kernan, N.Y.*

*Charles Shippard*





was at length solved by the good offices of Philemon Baldwin, upon the occasion of a "barn raising." After the last rafter had been made fast in place Mr. Baldwin climbed up the frame to the plate and there addressed the assembled people. He referred to the dispute concerning the name, and then remarked that as part of the inhabitants were Pennsylvanians and part Yankees a compromise was fair to both factions, and suggested the name Penn Yan as sufficient for both parties. This proposition was agreed to and the christening was completed. The naming was soon afterward ratified in the change of the post station from Jerusalem to Penn Yan.

The "head of the street" remained for many years the center of business and residence, but as years passed away dwelling-houses became more frequent along both sides of the highway leading to Wagener's mill. In fact it was not many years afterward that this locality began to assume the character of a hamlet. The vicinity of the outlet and the foot of the lake formed a highly desirable site for a village, for boat communication with points up the lake opened a thoroughfare of trade and travel in that direction. In 1800 a road was surveyed from the foot of the lake about two-thirds of a mile eastward, Joseph Jones, Ezra Cole, and John Plympton being the commissioners to do the work. Another road led from the Lee place to Wagener's mills constructed in 1806, and three years later commissioners Morris F. Sheppard and Charles Roberts laid out still another highway leading from Plympton's Bridge to the mills.

The opening of these roads was made necessary to accommodate the Milo people in getting to and from the mills on the outlet. But about the time the work was commenced, possibly earlier, another little settlement had sprung up near the foot of the lake. This locality at once became a rival to the hamlet at the head of the street. The tract was laid out in village lots and many improvements were made there. The name of Elizabethtown was given the place, and it boasted of a hotel, store, and several dwellings. The tavern was built by Wallace Finch, who was succeeded by Peter Heltibidal, and the latter in turn by George and Robert Shearman. Afterward it became known as the Kimball Hotel, but was torn down many years ago. Another hotel stood where Charles D. Welle's dwelling is erected, but that hostelry eventually was

put to other uses, and now forms part of the houses of Mr. Wells and Calvin Carpenter. The name of this locality was changed in the course of a few years from Elizabethtown to Summer Site, and as such continued until it finally merged into and was absorbed by its more successful rival—Penn Yan.

The little rural villages, one at the head of the street and the other at the foot of the lake, each trying for mastery in the matter of importance, could produce but one result, and that the gradual growing together and final dissolution of the name of the lesser burgh. The Wagener mills occupied a site about midway between them, and the natural tendency of travel and trade was in their direction. Abraham Wagener's dwelling<sup>1</sup> stood near the corner not far from the mills, and he of course drew improvements toward his own home. On the corner just north of his house was a store, but by whom built and by whom first conducted the writer knoweth not.

During the first twenty or thirty years of its existence the village of Penn Yan was rapidly increased both in population and industries. The people who located there represented all trades and professions incident to their period, but to mention each of them would be a thing next to impossible. Some were prominent in local affairs, while others were conservative in both thought and action, and did not therefore appear conspicuously in the settlement. By 1817 or 1818 the place had acquired a population sufficient to warrant the starting of a newspaper—the *Penn Yan Herald*—through which channel the business portion of the community could proclaim themselves and their wares to the inhabitants of the region. But the one great event which gave to the old village its greatest upward start and brought to it a considerable population, was the erection of Yates County, and the designation of Penn Yan as the county seat. This occurred in 1823, and from that time dated the certainty of future growth and prosperity. With the establishment of the county seat attorneys came to practice at the courts; to get the quiet people into trouble and then kindly help them out again.

A writer of village history of Penn Yan, covering the period from about the beginning of the present century down to about 1832, informs

<sup>1</sup> The dwelling of Mr. Wagener was originally built where Quackenbush's drug store now is, but was afterward moved to the Knapp House site.

us as to the principal interests represented at the head of the street, and from his reminiscences we are able to furnish the present reader with a fairly accurate list of the businesses conducted, together with the owners thereof.

*Lawyers.*—Cornelius Masten, George H. Green, William Shattuck, John Willey, Abraham P. Vosburgh, Thomas J. Nevens, Levi Lyman, David B. Prosser, Henry Welles, Welles & Treat, Everett Van Buren, Prosser & Winants, Prosser & Eno, B. W. Franklin, Henry M. Stewart, William Cornwell.

*Merchants.*—William Babcock, Hezekiah Roberts, Henry Bradley, Bradley & Bissell, Ira Gould & Co., Eli Shelden & Co., L. G. Budlong & Co., E. Mount, John Sloan, John H. Bostwick & Co., James W. Norris, William and John Brooks, B. Tyler & Co., Tyler & Fowle, Augustus Stewart, Milliken & Bradley, Wheeler & Sawyer, William T. Scott & Co., Moore & Coffin, Seabury Kissam, H. J. Lee.

*Physicians.*—John Hatmaker, Walter Wolcott, Uri Judd, Roscius Morse, A. Woodworth, Francis M. Potter, William Cornwell, William D. Cook.

*Watchmakers and Silversmiths.*—Frederick A. Seymour, Charles Scott, A. B. Terrill, C. H. Guiger.

*Carriage Makers.*—Melzer Tuel, Amaza Tuel, James Cooley, Timothy Brigden, Heman Squires.

*Carriage Painters.*—George Stimson, Charles Meeks, Edward Bowers, James I. Broom.

*Carriage Trimmers.*—John D. Applegate, Lewis Ingalls, Albert Little.

*Cabinet and Furniture Makers.*—Samuel F. Curtis, Amasa Holden, N. P. Hawks, William Morris.

*House Painters.*—Stephen Williams, Jacob Woodruff, Alexander Edson.

*Mason.*—Isaac Youmans.

*Dentist.*—Joseph Elmendorf.

*Saddle and Harness Makers.*—James Sears, L. Himrod & Co., Charles P. Babcock, John C. Babcock, Charles Risen, William D. McAllister.

*Carpenters.*—Jacob Hovey, Hubbel Gregory, Abraham Prosser, Elipha Peckins, ——— Rogers, John Horn, D. Reed.

*Hatters.*—Ebenezer Jenkins, Sutton Birdsall.



*Grocers.*—Higley & Haskill, Benjamin Remer, John Norcott, Henry A. Tyler, George W. Mason.

*Baker.*—John D. Applegate.

*Tailors.*—Lewis Vanderlip, J. Seymour, George Cooley, Luther Lee, Samuel Fullager, Henry M. Locke, Morris Earle, Milton P. Burch.

*Shoemakers.*—Hitchcock & Scofield, John Scofield, Joseph Elmendorf.

*Blacksmiths.*—John Powell, Powell & Elliott, Powell & Simonds, Aaron Wood, Abraham Stetler, Reuben Stetson, James S. Powell.

*Cooper.*—Gideon Maynard.

*Stoves, Iron, and Tinware.*—P. Carson & Co.

*Gunsmiths.*—Gilbert & Bales.

*Wool Carding and Cloth Dressing.*—Morris F. Sheppard, Higley & Haskill.

*Tanners.*—Morris F. Sheppard, Henry Hubbard, Hubbard & Warner.

*Butchers.*—Nathan E. Lacey, Lyman H. Newton.

In 1824 and the years following, the newspapers, or at least one of them, published at the village, was called the *Yates Republican*. Its editor and proprietor was Edward J. Fowle. At the time or during the period first mentioned, a number of hotels were in operation at the head of the street, prominent among which was the "Penn Yan Hotel, Stage House and Livery," Major Asa Cole, proprietor. On the opposite side of the highway and on the corner was "Luman Phelps's Inn." Mr. Phelps died in the business and was succeeded by David H. Buell, and still later by Dr. Jeremiah B. Andrews. Another public house in the same locality was that known as "Smith Cole's Inn."

Among the men who were prominent in public and local affairs, and dwellers within the village proper at an early day, were William Babcock and Elijah Spencer, who were members of Congress; Aaron Remer and Morris F. Sheppard, members of Assembly; Cornelius Masten, county judge; Abraham P. Vosburgh and Edward J. Fowle, surrogates; William Babcock and Henry Bradley, county treasurers; Abner Woodworth, Edward Genung, Robert Buell, and Luther Winants, justices of the peace.

Of course the readers will not be led into the belief that the persons and firms above mentioned were in business at the head of the street at the same time, for such was by no means the case. They were in busi-

ness during the first thirty or thirty-five years of the present century, constantly coming and going as is the custom at the present day.

The year 1832 or thereabout found the village containing a population of about 1,500 persons, and although the head of the street continued thereafter for some time as the chief center of trade, along down Main street, particularly on the west side, was a number of residences the places of abode of the three prominent citizens as it is now. There were two churches, the Presbyterian and Methodist; the former well up the street, while the latter stood west of the site now occupied by the church of that denomination.

The court house stood about on the same ground as does the present building, and was built in fairly close resemblance to that now in use, though not quite so large. Where is now the residence of John S. Sheppard stood a hotel building built originally it is said by a retired English sea captain, and which was called "Washington House," but afterward remodeled and put to use as a boarding and select school, and then called "Yates County Academy and Female Seminary." At this time the postoffice occupied a small one-story building standing about where is now the residence of George C. Snow. The incumbent of the office was Ebenezer Brown.

The lower part of the village acquired an advantage over the upper part through the location and survey of the Crooked Lake Canal. The purpose of this water-way was to furnish boat passage from Crooked Lake to Seneca Lake, a distance of eight miles. The act authorizing its construction was passed by the legislature of 1828, and the canal was ordered built by an act of the following year. The work of construction was commenced in 1830, and fully completed in 1833. This consummation brought business to the lower end of the village, and correspondingly depressed trade up at the corners. The coming of the freight and packet boats became as common a thing as was the stage and mail coach, but the arrival of the former meant more than the latter. A hotel was soon afterward built for the accommodation of the boatmen. It rejoiced in the odd name of "Owl's Nest," and stood on Seneca street just west of Jacob's Brook.

One of the more prominent men at the lower end of the street, during the period of which we write, was George Shearman. He came to

the village in or about 1808 or '09, and from that time forth was closely identified with its business interests. He had a store, standing very near the corner of Main and Jacob streets, and was in trade something like twenty-five years. On the land now occupied by Hon. George R. Cornwell's block Mr. Shearman built a hotel, the American, which will be remembered by many of the present residents of mature years. Mr. Shearman also was proprietor of a potash works and a distillery; likewise a mill on the outlet. In fact he built and established two mills and two distilleries. He contributed toward the building up of his part of the town as much as any man during that period.

But, however gratifying it might be to the reader to refer to each and every of the old buildings and enterprises of Penn Yan during the first half century of its history, the space already used in that connection warns us that we must pass to another branch of the subject and give some attention to things that were and are, as well as to those of which it can only be said that they have been. The old buildings are nearly all gone, some by the ravages of fire and other elements, while many have been torn down, having become unsightly and not well adapted to the uses of later occupants. The first buildings were mainly frame structures, built in rows, having room enough in many cases for a half dozen or more tenants on the ground floor, while the upper floors were occupied by lawyers and doctors, tailors and other light tradesmen. And after the destruction and removal of the first and possibly the second series of buildings of frame, the owners along the business streets commenced to build with brick.

According to the best recollection of older citizens of the village the first brick-yard was situated out west of the village proper, near and just beyond the present sand-bank, while another of about the same period was near the foot of the lake. But about the year 1820, as near as can now be determined, a brick-yard was started on the south bank of the outlet near the site of the present planing-mill. Dr. Rayment, Erastus and Albert Page are said to have been among the early proprietors at this point. The clay supply, however, soon became exhausted and the owners moved to a more abundant field across the highway—Lake street, as now laid out. A yard was in operation here for more than thirty years, and the brick there made were used in building many of the

older residences and blocks now in the village. It was discontinued about twenty-five years ago. The imported bricks and "bats" were afterward used in filling depressed places, and were covered over with earth. Lake street, along where the yard was in operation, was in this way built up to grade level.

Speaking of these depressions recalls the most noticeable one in the village, that at the foot of Main street, starting near the north end of the Knapp House block and extending south across the outlet. In front of the block the foot passenger descended several steps, like stairs, and thence was a gradual decline down as far as the mills and the canal, while on the opposite side of the outlet was a sharp ascent before level ground was reached. The present mills stand at least fifteen feet higher than did the Wagener mills, and the bridge has likewise been raised to grade. All the space between the Knapp House and the laundry is "made land."

*Incorporation of the Village.*—After the lapse of about thirty years from the time of the first improvement within the limits proper of Penn Yan the village was found to contain a sufficient population to justify its people in assuming municipal character. In fact such course became necessary in order that certain established interests might be protected; that there might be regulated its internal police; that a fire department might be established and controlled, and that necessary improvements might be made without first obtaining the sanction and consent of the town of Milo, the people of which town were not willing that their moneys should be appropriated to uses of improvements from which they derived no substantial benefit. To accomplish this end the citizens of the village caused to be presented to the State legislature a bill which was enacted into a law on the 29th of April, 1833. The enacting clause was as follows:

"All that district of country hereinafter described shall be known and distinguished by the name of the 'Village of Penn Yan,' that is to say, all that part of the town of Milo, and all that part of the town of Benton, in the county of Yates, bounded as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of lot No. 37, township No. 7, first range, thence south  $21\frac{1}{2}$  degrees east. 60 chains. 50 links, to the northwest side of the highway leading by Samuel Gillett and Robert Shearman's to the Crooked Lake; thence along the northwest side of the highway, south  $16\frac{1}{2}$  degrees west, 15 chains; thence 38 degrees west, 2 chains to the north side of Gillett street; thence on the north side of the highway, south 59 degrees west, 27 chains, 42 links; north  $21\frac{1}{2}$  degrees west,



26 chains to the south side of lot No. 37 ; thence along said line north, 88 degrees west, 37 chains and 62 links to the southwest corner of said lot ; thence along the west line of said lot, north three degrees, 27 minutes east, 64 chains to the town line between Benton and Milo aforesaid ; thence along said town line south 80 degrees east, 1 chain, 25 links, to the southwest corner of lot No. 64, in township No. 8, first range ; thence along the west line of said lot, north 3 degrees, east 24 chains and 25 links ; thence south 87 degrees east, 49 chains ; thence south 3 degrees west, 24 chains, 50 links, to the place of beginning."

The second section of the act declared that "the inhabitants of said village shall be a body corporate by the name of 'Trustees of the Village of Penn Yan.'"

The first annual meeting was provided to be held on the first Monday of June next (1833), at the court-house, at which time the voting population were authorized to elect five trustees, one clerk, one treasurer, three assessors, one collector, one police constable, and five fire wardens. The seventeenth section of the act divided the village into three fire districts, viz.: District No. 1, to include all that part of the village lying north of Court street ; No. 2, to include all the village lying south of Court street, and its east and west continuation, and north of the outlet ; No. 3, to include all that part of the village lying south of the outlet. But the village of Penn Yan at the present time includes a much larger area of territory than was embraced within its original limits. This extension was made necessary by increasing population and business interests, while many who were originally outside the village sought to be admitted therein that they might have the benefit of its excellent school system, as well as other advantages not accorded them as residents of the township.

The village organization was made complete by the election of officers provided by the act of the legislature, which officers, when qualified (the trustees), passed and adopted ordinances for the government of the village, regulating the police and health departments, and providing for adequate protection against the loss and destruction of property by fire. The officers chosen at the election above referred to were as follows: Trustees, Abraham Wagener, R. N. Morrison, Russell R. Fargo, Morris F. Sheppard, and John Brooks ; assessors, Eben Smith, J. W. Squier, E. J. Fowle ; clerk, Henry Eno. The whole number of votes cast at the election was 252. Abraham Wagener was elected president of the board of trustees.

In this connection it would be desirable to furnish a succession of the principal officers from the organization of the village to the present time, but such a list is impossible from the fact that the old minute books have been lost. In the office of the village clerk there are found two books of proceedings of the board, covering the period from about 1852 to the present time, but the most persistent effort has failed to discover any earlier record. Therefore rather than to furnish a partial list of village officers it is deemed preferable to give none at all.

The village of Penn Yan was incorporated in 1833, and by that proceeding it was in part separated from the mother town, Milo, yet not wholly so. The officers who govern the town have a certain control and jurisdiction over the village, and both join together in the election of township officers. The village is subject to taxation for the benefit of the whole town, and the township outside is in the same manner subject to taxation for certain village improvements. In addition the village raises a fund by tax on its own property, which is devoted to the maintenance of its special institutions and for its own special benefit. The people of the village vote the tax which creates this fund and the trustees expend the same according to their own judgment.

The early pages of the present chapter have been devoted mainly to the history of the village prior to its incorporation, but the question naturally arises, what can be recorded as its history subsequent to that time? It is absolutely impossible to supply to the reader the name of every proprietor of a business, or to follow correctly the changes that have taken place with each succeeding year since 1833, but the village and its people have certainly made a history, and an important and interesting history it has been. It is written in the existence, past and present, of every church society, each school building, and the multitude of scholars who have passed through its course; written in every business block and manufacturing industry that has been built up during the last sixty years. Therefore these must be the subjects of narration on subsequent pages.

*Educational Institutions of Penn Yan.*—Be it said to the honor of the Board of Education of Penn Yan that no interior municipality in the State of New York can boast of a better system of common school and academic courses than this village. As a recent writer has truth-

fully remarked, "illiteracy has but poor excuse in this community." But while fairly within the province of this chapter to enter into a detailed history of the schools of Penn Yan, the necessity for so doing is in a measure removed by the thoroughness of the educational chapter in the general history. However, a history of this village without at least a brief reference to its educational institutions, past and present, would indeed prove an unfaithful record.

The first school taught within the limits of what afterward became the village of Penn Yan was that conducted by Ruth Pritchard, the faithful friend and co-worker of Jemima Wilkinson. This most estimable woman had kept a school in the Friends' log meeting-house in 1796, and afterward at Benton Center. In 1797, having then been married to Justus P. Spencer, she resided near this locality and while here started a little school and thereafter taught the youth of the settlement for some years, and until the time of her death in 1816. During this period, and in 1814, John L. Cleveland maintained a select school and numbered among his pupils several who afterward became prominent men in the village. George A. Sheppard, Charles C. Sheppard, Charles Wagener, and James D. Morgan, sr., attended Mr. Cleveland's school. John L. Lewis, sr., is also remembered as having been a teacher for about three years, commencing in 1815. In 1820 Mr. Gregory conducted a grammar school.

The old school-house of the village, it is said, stood on the upper corner of the present academy lot, and was used not only as a school, but as well by the Presbyterian society as a place of worship. A short time prior to 1830 a brick school was built west of the older house, being located on the west side of Liberty street as afterward laid out. The latter was in use until 1843, when district No. 13 of Milo built the school on Head street, as afterward called. So near as can be learned from scattering records and untrustworthy memory, the early teachers in the several school buildings alluded to were as follows: John L. Lewis, ——— Gregory, Gurdon Badger, John Smith, Jason Andrus, in the old frame building on Main street; Pierpont Dyer, Joshua E. R. Abbott, R. P. Lamb, Jerome Corey, assisted by Ascha A. Cornwell, afterward Mrs. J. S. Glover, Emily Cornwell, Hannah Benedict, Henry C. Wheeler, James L. Seeley, Samuel H. Chapman, ——— Wilkinson,

Adolphus Kneeland, Philetus Olney, Richard Taylor, John Porter, William A. Coleman, Henry A. Brunner, Sherman Morse, Celinda Soper, Sophia Elwood, Charles Edson, Henry M. Stewart, Rev. Edward Brown, Cornelia Locke, Caroline Cornwell, Salina Easton, and others as early teachers in the Liberty street and Head street buildings.

In 1824, or the year following, the lower end of the village had built its first school-house, standing on what is now Seneca street, but then know as Ray street, and nearly opposite the site of the Shearman & Lewis malt house. This building was in service until 1842, when the Maiden Lane school-house was erected. Among the teachers mentioned in connection with the Seneca street school were Crinus B. Feagles, Austin Feagles, Selden Chadwick, Jethro Bonney, Hiram Kidder, A. C. Spooner, B. B. Stark, Mr. McGuinn, Benjamin L. Hoyt, and a Mr. Moore. Mr. Hoyt taught this school in 1840 and 1841. The lady teachers remembered in connection with this school are Nancy Raymond, Armenia Tyler, and Susan Shaw.

In 1842 the school-house in Maiden Lane was erected, and here attended a fair proportion of those who afterward became and still are the leading business men of the village. The play ground extended to Main street, the scholars then having more freedom and latitude than appears to be the lot of the present generation of pupils. Where are now the stores of Roneke & Rogers, Donahue, Hazen, the First National Bank, L. P. Wagener, and others below, was the ball grounds occupied by the scholars under the instruction of Joseph Bloomingdale and teachers immediately succeeding him. The Maiden Lane school has been maintained to the present day. Originally it was in District No. 12 of the town of Milo, but for many years has been a part of the free school system of the village. Recalling the names of teachers connected with this school, these are found: Joseph Bloomingdale, Howard R. Miller, Mary A. Jocelyn, Harris Cale, Samuel Keifer, Asa Countryman, Jay Calkins, John W. Stewart, E. Hermon Latimer, Laura Latimer, Anna Matthews, Jane Stark, Mary A. Bennett, Sarah S. Hammond, Julia Hard, Eliza Casey, Charity Bishop, Henry R. Sanford, Almira L. Hobart, and possibly others whose names are forgotten.

At the foot of the lake, in 1825 or thereabouts, was organized district No. 9 of the town of Milo, but the district itself has now become



mainly absorbed by the Union District. About 1824 or '25 Van Rensselaer Vorce had a school in Aaron Plympton's old log house, and after the building of the district school he was its first master. Following him as pedagogue were Henry H. Tupper and Electa Williams. Other early teachers here were William W. Hartshorn, Isaac W. Hartshorn, John T. Perkins, James Hartshorn, Joseph Bloomingdale, Edward Randall, Mr. Gillette, and Samuel V. Miller, the latter in 1840 and 1841. Still later teachers were Sherman Morse, Jerome Corey, Lucien Corey, and Eber Stone. The maintenance of a school in this part of the village was necessary even after the absorption of the locality by the Union district. Under the direction of the Board of Education in 1879 the brick school on Lake street was erected, at a cost of about \$2,500. Since that time the school here has been a part of the excellent system of education adopted by the board, and is now one of the juvenile or primary departments of the village.

The Chestnut street school, so-called, likewise originally formed a part of the Milo district No. 4, and became a village institution by absorption in 1879. Its patronage is derived from the residents east of the railroad. The union district erected the school building in 1879, the cost of the entire property being more than \$3,000. The first village school east of the tracks was established by the board in 1876, but prior to that, and as early as 1845, old district No. 4 had its school, and a prominent institution it was. Among the teachers there at an early day were Jethro Bonney, Benjamin L. Hoyt, B. F. Cook, and William P. Gaylord.

The several institutions heretofore referred to as being schools incident to the village had their origin in the district arrangement of the town of Milo, and afterward became schools of the village, or more properly the union district. But in this narrative no mention has yet been made of that leading institution, the Academy, the chiefest of the educational interests of the village, and one with which there is connected more history, perhaps, than with all others combined. A description of the academy, its origin, growth, and value, together with mention of the persons connected with it in various capacities, is reserved for the closing pages of this branch of municipal history. But in the present connection there should properly be made some refer-

ence to other educational institutions of the village than its public and district schools; those that are and have been commonly called private or select schools. With these the village of Penn Yan has in times past had an abundant supply.

The first school of the kind of which there appears to be any record was that managed by John W. Willey, who also was a lawyer and afterward attained some distinction as the first mayor of Cleveland, Ohio. Thomas J. Nevins taught public and private schools, and it was largely through his efforts and influence that the academy was founded. Jane S. Bellows and her sister Martha Bellows were also select school teachers in the village, the former in 1825 and the latter afterward. In the same connection mention may also be made of Mary Jones, Charity Sheldon, Reuben P. Lamb, Dan. B. Bradley, Uriah Hanford, Orra Andrus, Jason Andrus, Asa P. Norton, Samuel H. Northrup, Jerusha Kinney, Roscius Morse. These are said to have been teachers prior to the founding of the academy. John Brown, said to have been a superior teacher, conducted a select school near the rear of the Baptist Church. Among the other teachers in the same building were Robert Murray, Artemas Bigelow, Evan W. Evans, Charles Hopkins, William H. Lord. Other select teachers, whose school buildings were in various parts of the village, were Joshua E. R. Abbott, L. P. Paddock, Nathan W. Ayer, John Owen, Mrs. William L. Porter, Helen M. Chamberlain, Mrs. Robinson, Miss Ryckman, Sarah Wisner, Maria Lathrop, Louise West, Miss Hubbard, Maria Benham, Adelia Benham, Miss Minor, Ann Arnold, Miss Teall, Elizabeth Philbrick, Celinda Soper, Jane Stark, Sabra Lapham, Isabella Sherman, Sarah Welles, Josephine Ellsworth, Henrietta Starkweather, and others whose names among the multitude of teachers from time to time conducting temporary schools in the village may possibly have been forgotten or overlooked.

*St. Michael's School.*—A Catholic parochial school was started in Penn Yan in October, 1883, under the general supervision of the Rev. Father Eugene Pagani, the worthy priest in charge of the local parish. The school building and property are conveniently situated in the western part of the village. The lot cost \$1,200, upon which was erected a commodious school-house at an additional expense of \$6,400. Interior improvements and fixtures increased the total cost to \$10,000. St.

Michael's school is conducted by several faithful sisters of the Order of St. Joseph, and is in all respects a useful and worthy institution. Being a denominational school, the expense of its maintenance is borne by the parish.

*The Penn Yan Academy.*—The present superior educational institution of the village, known and distinguished by the name of Penn Yan Academy, was founded and established during the year 1857, and although then an original conception and consummation, it was indirectly the outgrowth of one of the ancient educational interests of the village and locality. But the plan upon which it was proposed that the new academy should be started and maintained was so complete and elaborate, and contemplated so radical an improvement over a preceding institution, that between the two and their systems of management there was no resemblance whatever. The first was one of the infant interests of an unorganized village in a newly erected county, while the later was designed to be a modern school, founded for the purposes of higher and more advanced education, upon a broader and more liberal scale. In fact the establishment of the Penn Yan Academy in 1857 was a grand onward movement, a long stride in the work of advancement and progress; but like all such reformations, the subject was not discussed nor the work itself accomplished without some opposition and bitterness of feeling, encouraged and fostered by the same element of population that in every community invariably opposes each and every proposition, no matter how worthy the object, that calls for an unusual expenditure of means or a departure from ancient customs. However, the academy was founded and put in operation by the voice of a good majority of the people, and despite the efforts of its opponents, and not one person lives to-day, whether in favor of or opposed to the plan at the outset, but that realizes that what was done was for the best interests of the village and locality, and of the greatest value to the people of the county. But as we are supposed to refer to events, so near as may be in their order of occurrence, the attention of the reader must first be directed, briefly however, to the old academy.

It was during the time in which Thomas J. Nevins was conducting a school in the village that the prominent men of the place began discussing the advisability of establishing an academic school to the end

that the youth of the locality might be given the advantages of thorough education in the English branches. The result was an application to the State legislature of 1828, followed by an act passed by that body incorporating the Yates County Academy and Female Seminary. The first board of trustees designated by the act, were: Cornelius Masten, Samuel S. Ellsworth, Thomas J. Nevins, George Sherman, Ebenezer Brown, Ira Gould, Henry Bradley, James C. Robinson, Eben Smith, Joseph Ketchum, Aaron Reamer and Andrew F. Oliver. These persons, leading and influential men of the village and locality, organized and established the school in accordance with the provisions of the act. The academy building was opened for pupils on the first Monday of January, 1829, with Gardiner Kellogg, a graduate of Bowdoin, as principal. The building occupied for the academy was the old Holcomb hotel structure, standing then where Charles C. Sheppard afterward lived. Attached to the building proper was a boarding house for young ladies, with accommodations for about forty persons. Mrs. Kellogg, mother of the principal, had charge of this department of the institution.

But the old Yates County Academy and Female Seminary proved to be a rather short-lived affair, but just what causes led to its decline and final downfall is now difficult of determination. Principal Kellogg, too, remained its master but a year or two when he and his good mother took their departure, he being succeeded by Seymour Gookins who presided over its affairs for nearly six years. During the principalship of Mr. Gookins the academy reached the height of its glory, the catalogue for 1834 showing the attendance of 202 male and 139 female pupils. James Taylor, Miles Benham, Charles Hubbard and Samuel Wise were then members of the board of trustees, while David Malin, Bachelor of Arts, was announced as senior tutor and classical teacher. Likewise, Richard Taylor was junior tutor and mathematician; Charles S. Davis, teacher of English; Chloe Parmele, preceptress; Mary Niles, assistant preceptress; Clarissa Hagaman, teacher of music; Sarah Hill, primary teacher. In 1835 the total attendance was 315, of which 185 were males and 130 females. This year the primary department was discontinued.

After Mr. Gookins left William H. Schram and wife conducted the



school for a time, but were in turn succeeded by W. H. Schenck and wife. Daniel B. Wakefield next followed as principal for a short period, but was superceded by Richard Taylor and Joseph Bloomingdale, under whose joint efforts an attempt was made to re-establish the institution on a paying basis, but without substantial success; the Yates Academy, so-called for brevity, was doomed and its fall was inevitable. Its whole career covered a period of about eleven years.

From about the year 1840 down to the founding of the present Penn Yan Academy, the village was without an institution of academic character other than could be discovered in the select schools from time to time started, but only to run a short course of existence. At last, during the fifth decade of the present century, the progressive men of the village and immediate locality were awakened to the necessity of having a high school for the better and more advanced education of the youth of the village; an institution that should furnish knowledge to its pupils beyond the limited course afforded by the common village and district schools. Therefore recourse was again had to the State legislature, with result in the formation of the Penn Yan Union School District, embracing then, as it does now, a larger area than is contained within the village limits proper. The original board of trustees was as follows: Ebenezer B. Jones, Charles C. Sheppard, Benedict W. Franklin, Levi O. Dunning, Darius O. Ogden, George Wagener, Jeremiah S. Gillett, Martin Spencer, Daniel W. Streeter. The organization was perfected April 30, 1857, with Ebenezer B. Jones as president.

For the purpose of erecting a school building the trustees purchased land on the west side of Main street, at an expense of about \$2,000. On this lot contractor Charles V. Bush, following the plans prepared for and adopted by the board, erected the academy at a cost of \$8,000. The work of construction was completed during the summer of 1859, and the building made ready for occupancy the same year.

While it is not within the province of this chapter to comment upon the character or value of any of the village institutions, the writer nevertheless feels constrained to reproduce for the reader's benefit the words of a recent contributor to the pages of the annual school catalogue for the years 1883-84, as follows: "Founded upon a system of permanence and sure support, it has been a prosperous school. It has been of in-

calculable worth to the village and the surrounding country, and has given opportunities of advanced education to hundreds of pupils, to whom they would have been largely inaccessible if this school had not existed. The wisdom of its projectors has been abundantly vindicated. The primary schools were declared free upon the organization of the district, and the academy was made a free school to all the residents of the district in 1875.

As a preceding chapter of this work has referred at length to the educational institutions not only of the county at large but as well those of the village of Penn Yan, it is not deemed prudent in this connection to enter into a more extended narrative of the local schools, nor even to furnish a succession of the trustees who have from time to time been chosen to office. But it is entirely proper at this point that there should be recorded the names of persons who have been called to the position of principle of the academy, and as well the persons who have held the honorable offices of president and secretary of the board of trustees.

The present members of the board of education are these: George R. Cornwell, Benjamin L. Hoyt, John S. Sheppard, John T. Andrews, 2d, George R. Youngs, Perley P. Curtis, Edson Potter, Silas Kinne, and Stephen B. Ayers. Officers of the board: George R. Cornwell, president; George R. Youngs, secretary; Morris F. Sheppard, treasurer; William P. Gaylord, collector.

*Succession of Principals.*—Rev. Otis L. Gibson, 1859–1861; Willard P. Gibson, A.M., 1861–1863; Winsor Scofield, A.M., 1863–1866; Cicero M. Hutchins, A.M., 1866–1868; Rufus S. Green, A.B., 1868–1869; John T. Knox, A.M., 1869–1870; Samuel D. Barr, A.M., 1870–1872; Burr Lewis, A.B., 1872–1873; Rudolphus C. Briggs, A.B., 1873–1875; Francis D. Hodgson, A.M., 1875–1883; Henry White Callahan, A.M., 1883–1890; F. Theodore Shultz, A.M., 1890—.

*Presidents.*—Ebenezer B. Jones, 1859–1861; Charles C. Sheppard, 1861–1863, 1865–1873; Benedict W. Franklin, 1863–1865; Darius A. Ogden, 1873–1876, 1880–1889; Levi O. Dunning, 1876–1877; Stafford C. Cleveland, 1877–1880; Benjamin L. Hoyt, 1889–1891; George R. Cornwell, 1891—.

*Secretaries.*—Daniel W. Streeter, 1859–1860; Jeremiah S. Gillett, 1860–1863, 1865–1866; Lyman Munger, 1863–1865; John T. Knox,

1873-1874; Benjamin L. Hoyt, 1874-1877; George R. Youngs, 1877-1880; Reuben A. Scofield, 1880-1882; Fred S. Armstrong, 1882-1884; George R. Youngs, 1884—.

*Church History of Penn Yan.*—The first religious services in the county of Yates were those conducted by the society of Friends, although the claim has been made that Catholic missionaries said masses in the region at an earlier day. The Friends came in numbers in 1788, and worshiped in their own peculiar manner during that same year. Four years later the Methodist circuit riders appeared and labored in the region, and planted the seed of their afterward prosperous church societies. As there was no settlement within what afterward became the village of Penn Yan earlier than 1800, it is not expected that religious services could have been held here prior to that time. But such meager records as do now exist, most of them being founded on unreliable tradition, and still less trustworthy memory of man, leave us in some doubt as to whether Methodist or Presbyterian services were first to be conducted within the afterward named village of Penn Yan. The Genesee Conference was organized in 1810, but there appears to have been no local church organization prior to 1826. However, common consent has generally accorded to the Presbyterian society the honor of having been the first to plant their church within the environment of the village.

The Presbyterian Church and society of Penn Yan was the almost direct outgrowth and branch of the older society of the same denomination in Benton. As early as the year 1819, in the month of June, Rev. James Hotchkins preached in the little old school-house in this village, at a time when there were but two female and no male members of the church within its limits; and these persons were then members of the Benton society. During the summer of 1820, at the invitation of local residents, Rev. Richard Williams came here to reside, and thereafter preached in the village in the morning and at the Benton church in the afternoon. In 1821 the session of the Benton church held a meeting in Penn Yan, and examined Maria Masten, Sarah Cornwell and John Hatmaker, who were afterward received into the church on confession of faith. These were the first persons to be received into the Penn Yan branch of the church, and John Hatmaker was chosen its first elder.

With the constant increase of village population other persons expressed a preference for the Presbyterian doctrine and form of worship, and in February, 1823, Mr. Hatmaker, as duly authorized delegate, presented a petition to the Presbytery, asking for the organization of a separate and distinct church. On this petition appeared the names of thirty-eight members of the Benton church. The request was granted, and the society was organized on the 3d Tuesday in February of that year; an organization that was made fully complete on the 2d day of September following. Dr. John Hatmaker and Silas Lacy were chosen elders, and Henry Knapp and Mr. Lacy were elected deacons. For a period of four years from the first preachings by Mr. Williams the new society had no church home, but in 1824, the same year in which the Benton society erected its church, the local edifice was erected. It was a small, unpretentious building of frame material, but sufficient for the purposes of the society at that time. Its location was on the east side of Main street, near and just above the residence of T. F. Wheeler. From the time of the organization of the society down to the year 1841, the Presbyterian church maintained a steady and healthful growth, both in membership and influence, but in the year last mentioned there occurred a serious division among its members, growing out of a discussion relative to church action and doctrines, and increased in feeling by the divided sentiment over the question of slavery. The result was the withdrawal of a majority of the members from their church connection, in which action they were counseled and followed by the pastor, the Rev. Ovid Miner. The dissenters not only severed their relations with the mother society, but organized for themselves, and built a church edifice at the corner of Main and Chapel streets, the same building, though now enlarged, at present occupied by the society of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In this connection it may be stated that the new society, which by the way styled themselves Congregationalists, and adopted that form of church government, never acquired any substantial strength. They built the edifice now owned by the Methodist society, in 1841, but in years afterward themselves became involved in a controversy, with result in the dismemberment of their organization. A portion of their membership formed a new society styled the Wesleyan church; some



returned to the mother society which they had deserted, while still others drifted into other churches or remained unallied to any religious organization.

Notwithstanding the serious blow against the welfare of the church, caused by the withdrawal of the majority of its members, the society in about four months secured the services of the Rev. James Richards, and agreed to pay him an increased salary. Also they determined upon radical changes and improvements in the church edifice, which were accomplished, but at the expense of a heavy debt which hung over the society for many years. But with the lapse of time and the return of many of the former members the church again assumed her former position among the influential societies of the village. In 1864 the building was again subjected to repairs and enlargement to meet the requirements of the society, and on the 22d of October of that year the church was rededicated. However, fifteen years more of increasing strength demonstrated that the old church home was no longer sufficient for the society's uses, and the building of an entirely new and more spacious and elegant modern house of worship became imperative. The site chosen was at the corner of Main and Clinton streets, upon which was erected by far the most beautiful edifice in the county. It needs no other description on these pages. Conspicuously carved on the corner stone are the years "1824-1879," denoting the time of erecting the first and the latest churches of the society.

The succession of pastors of the First Presbyterian church of Penn Yan has been as follows: Richard Williams, from September, 1820, to February 19, 1825; Chauncey Eddy, 1826 to September 19, 1831; Samuel A. Allen, October 8, to December 8, 1831; Stephen Crosby, February, 1832, to August 1, 1836; Ovid Miner, April 1, 1837, to February 17, 1841; James Richards, June 8, 1841, to November 18, 1847; William W. Robinson, from early in 1848 to November 14, 1850; James Eells, September 23, 1851, to October 27, 1854; W. W. Taylor, December, 1854, to April 1, 1860; L. S. Fine, October 1, 1860, to June, 1862; Frederick Starr, March 1, 1864, to May, 1865; David Magie, 1865 to 1872; William Lawrie, 1872 to 1873; D. Henry Palmer, 1873 to the present time.

The Methodist Episcopal church in Penn Yan was not regularly organ-

ized until the year 1826, at which time the village society was made a distinct appointment. Although there may be no record by which the question can be accurately determined, yet there is reason to believe that Methodist services were held and conducted in the village several years earlier than the organization. As a matter of fact Methodism in the county, or what afterward became the county, dates back to 1792, and although there could not have been services in the village until after the latter was founded, there is good reason to suppose that class services at least were held here soon after the year 1805, or about that time.

In 1826 Abram Prosser, the first known class leader, caused to be erected for the M. E. society a frame church. Its site was on Chapel street, in rear of the present edifice of the society, and about where the horse sheds now stand. Becoming too small for the requirements of the congregation, the old building was vacated, and the church property of the Congregational society, located at the corner of Main and Chapel streets, was acquired by purchase. This occurred in 1857, but two years later it was found necessary to enlarge the building. Additional alterations and enlargements were again made in 1881. The old first church building was removed from its original site to a lot just east of the landing place of the old line boats.

Numerically, financially, and in influence and good works, the Methodist Episcopal society is strong. In 1828 the church had a membership of but thirty persons; in 1891 the number is found to be four hundred and thirty. As a regular appointment the first services were conducted by John B. Alverson, who continued in charge three years, the last year being made nominally supernumerary, so as not to conflict with the church rule. Commencing with Rev. Alverson the succession of pastors of the church has been as follows:

John B. Alverson, 1826-28; Abner Chase, 1829; Manley Tooker, 1830; Chester V. Adgate, 1831-32; Wilbur Hoag, 1833; Robert Parker, 1834; Thomas J. Champion, 1835; Seth Mattison, 1836; Thomas J. Champion, 1837; Allen Steele, 1838; Freeborn G. Hibbard, 1839; William P. Davis, 1840; F. G. Hibbard, 1841-42; Clinton W. Sears, 1843; Isaiah McMahon, 1844-45; William H. Goodwin, 1846-47; Alpha Wright, 1848-49; Israel H. Kellogg, 1850-51; Daniel Dana Buck, 1852-53; Thomas Tousey, 1854-55; Nathan Fellows,

1856-57; John C. Nobles, 1858-59; Sanford VanBenschoten, 1860-61; Charles W. Bennett, 1862-63; D. D. Buck, 1864-65; Thomas Tousey, 1866-68; James E. Latimer, 1869; William R. Benham, 1870-71; M. S. Leet, 1872-73; J. P. Farmer, 1874-75; K. P. Jervis, 1876-77; A. N. Damon, 1878-80; E. M. Mills, 1881-83; J. H. McCarty, 1884-86; J. V. Benham, 1887-89; L. F. Congdon, 1890. Rev. C. N. Adgate died during his pastorate in 1832, and Rev. Schuyler Seager was appointed to fill out the term. Rev. J. P. Farmer resigned in 1875, and the term of appointment was filled by Rev. F. S. Stein.

Baptist preaching in this locality was conducted by Elder Simon Sutherland and Rev. Samuel Carpenter as early as 1811, but it was not until the year 1829 that any movement was made in the direction of establishing a Baptist society in Penn Yan. In the year last named about eighteen or twenty former members of the old Second Milo church severed their relations with the mother society for the purpose of founding a Baptist church in the village. Among the persons so withdrawing from the old society are remembered these: Stephen and Polly Raymond, Gideon Burtch, Thomas, Lydia and Mehitabel Benedict, Samuel and Isaac Raymond, William and Lucy Freeman, Pond and Pamela Curtis, Eunice Randall, Artemas Enos, Sister Youmans, Sally Nash, Mary Telford and Sister Firman.

The early meetings of the new society were held in residences of members, in old Masonic hall, schools, the court-house, and in the printing office of Brother Bennett. In April, 1831, a meeting was held in the old academy, at which time were chosen these trustees: Morris Earle, Stephen Raymond, and Abraham H. Bennett. At a meeting held February 11, 1834, it was resolved to build a brick church on Main street, to be in size forty feet front and sixty feet deep. At the same time the society chose a building committee, as follows: William M. Oliver, Morris F. Sheppard, Elipha Peckins, Abraham H. Bennett, William Babcock, and S. S. Barker. The first house of worship occupied the same site as the present church of this society. It was a plain brick building and cost \$9,000. It was occupied by the society until 1870, and then torn down to make room for the elegant edifice to be erected the next year. The new church was built by Moses E. Buck, at an expense of \$15,000, besides the material in the old building. The entire

new building, including lot, represented a total of \$25,000. The trustees were the building committee of the new edifice, and were as follows : Andrew F. Chapman, Martin F. Hicks, Henry A. Douglass, George W. Shannon, Ephraim Sanford, Jeremiah Raymond, Henry Briggs, Watkins Davis, and Gilbert Sherer. The new church was appropriately dedicated May 18, 1871, the sermon of the occasion being delivered by Rev. T. Edwin Brown, of Rochester.

The following named persons comprise the succession of pastors of the Baptist church and society, viz.: Samuel Carpenter, David Hulburt, John D. Hart, Ira Bennett, Orel Montague, Samuel Adsit, Howell Smith, Hiram K. Stimpson, Charles Morton, Samuel D. Bainbridge, Charles N. Chandler, Edwin P. Brigham, N. Judson Clark, G. M. Peters, T. R. Peters, J. P. Farmer, D. Crosby, D. R. Watson, and Edward M. Saunier.

St. Mark's Church and parish became a separate organization by action taken by the proper authorities on the 8th day of May, 1837, but prior to that time, and during the period from 1826 to 1837, Episcopal services were undoubtedly held in the residence of Rev. William Bostwick, missionary at Hammondsport and Bath. Upon the organization of the local parish Henry Rose and Abraham Dox were chosen wardens, and John N. Rose, Dr. Henry P. Sartwell, Seabury Kissam, Francis M. Potter, Erastus Page, Ebenezer Lord, B. W. Franklin, and William C. Parsons were likewise chosen vestrymen. In 1838, the year next succeeding that in which the parish was organized, the church edifice was erected on the lot where now stands the dwelling of William N. Wise. It was consecrated on the 8th day of August. Its cost was about \$7,000. The services of the church held prior to the erection of the edifice were conducted regularly in the old Masonic Hall on Court street.

"The church in Penn Yan," says a recently written historical article, "has had a checkered history. Its growth has not been proportionate to that of churches in neighboring villages. This, no doubt, was due principally to the frequent changes and long vacancies in the rectorship. During the Rebellion the bitter partizan spirit which influenced all classes was permitted to invade the parish, and finally culminated in the withdrawal, about 1870, of a large number of its members. But the



organization of a second parish was not effected until 1871. The new parish assumed the name of Grace Church. Rev. George M. Stanley was called to be its rector, but resigned after a brief pastorate of about six months. The Missionary Board of the parish having withheld the necessary aid, services were soon discontinued and the work of erecting a church on the corner of Main and Clinton streets was abandoned."

The old parish, after the loss of so many of its members, was able to maintain but a feeble existence. Rev. B. F. Taylor officiated for a time and was succeeded by Edmond Burke as lay reader, and after his ordination to the diaconate, September 15, 1872, was placed in charge of the parish. At this time the finances of the church were so low that the rectory and a part of the church lot were sold for debt. After the departure of Mr. Burke no regular services were held until 1875, but with the coming of Rev. H. L. Dennis, missionary, both branches of the church attended the services. Rev. William Catterson became resident clergyman on October 1, 1877, and in Easter week of 1878 there occurred a practical reorganization, with the election of officers to the places that had been three years vacant. Horatio W. Perkins and Augustus W. Franklin were elected wardens, and John C. Sheetz, Henry Tuthill, William H. Fox, George Y. Eastman, E. B. Sample, Thomas Emory, H. Rose, and C. J. Page, vestrymen.

The church had for some time considered the question of erecting a more suitable edifice, but the condition of the parish did not appear to justify such action. But after some hesitation the vestry was induced to exchange the old property for the lot at the corner of Main and Clinton streets to which they acquired title, and on which, on the foundation already in part laid, was built the present attractive English gothic structure. Its cost entire amounted to about \$9,000, and it has a seating capacity sufficient for 250 persons. The names of the following rectors appear in succession on the church register: Edmond Embury, B. W. Stone, Henry Stanley, O. F. Starkey, P. F. Stryker, Anthony Schuyler, George N. Cheney, John Long, T. F. Wardwell, G. W. Mayer, William Catterson, George S. Teller, William H. Lord. The latter, Mr. Lord, became rector of the parish in 1884 and has continued in that capacity to the present time.

St. Mark's parish contains about eighty-five families, while the com-

municants number about 120. The officers are: Horatio W. Perkins and Augustus W. Franklin, wardens; John C. Sheetz, George Beebe, Edson Potter, Wade Shannon, Perley P. Curtis, D. H. Stoll, George C. Snow, and Henry Rose, vestrymen.

In 1849 there were resident in and about Penn Yan about fifteen Catholic families. In 1891 the parish of St. Michael's Church numbers about 300 families. In the year first mentioned the Right Rev. John Timon, bishop of Buffalo, authorized Thomas Hendricks to raise by subscription funds sufficient to build a church, which was done. Abraham Wagener generously donated a lot on Pine street for the erection of the edifice, the deed therefor being excuted to the bishop. On this lot John Southerland built the church at a cost of \$2,200. The church was dedicated during the same year and was christened St. Michael's Church. Afterward and during the pastorate of Father Dean the parsonage was erected, costing \$1,500; and still later Father English enlarged the church edifice, frescoed its interior, placed new seats in the auditorium, painted the building, and otherwise improved the property at an expense of \$1,500. He, too, paid the debt against the church and cemetery. The succession of priests in charge of St. Michael's Church and parish with their term of service has been as follows: Michael Gilbride, about three years; P. Canny, two years; Joseph F. Dean, two years; Joseph McKenna, seven years; D. English, more than six years; Edward McGown, about six years; W. A. Gregg, until January, 1877, when the Rev. Eugene Pagani, the present pastor, was appointed by the bishop to the pastoral charge of the parish. Connected with St. Michael's parish is a parochial school, an account of which will be found on a preceding page.

*The Fire Department.*—The present excellent fire department of the village had its origin in the little embryo organization that came into spontaneous existence during the early years of Penn Yan history. No sooner did it become an assured fact that this place was at some time to become a village, than the inhabitants began casting about for some means of protection against fire. The first organization of any sort was the famous bucket brigade, not a mythical, but a real, live company, whose duty it was, and enjoined upon it by ordinance, to repair at once to the scene of conflagration, armed and equipped with at

least one stout leathern bucket. At that time the local laws also prescribed that every householder should keep a bucket in some convenient place within his domicile, and in case of fire whatever male person should be present was expected to take his place in the line and "hand the bucket."

With the rapid growth in population and its consequent increase in number of buildings, it soon became necessary to provide other and more effectual means for extinguishing fires, and this led to the purchase of the old famous engine called the "Cataract;" but the bucket brigade was by no means abandoned, as the Cataract had but little greater power than a large "squirt-gun." However it was the implement of the period and was the first engine appliance of the village, and as such was in use for about a score or more of years.

In the fall of 1835, after the burning of the old court-house, the village authorities, for Penn Yan had then been incorporated, took measures looking to the organization of a fire department. A meeting was held and Thomas H. Locke was chosen chief engineer of such a department as should be formed. He at once called for volunteers for a company of fire fighters, and it was not long before the ranks were well filled. About this time the trustees authorized the chief to proceed to Rochester and there purchase an engine suitable for the requirements of the village. The old brake engine, called the "Neptune," was the result of Mr. Locke's mission, together with a good supply of leather hose. The Neptune was first called into service on the occasion of the burning of "Brimstone Row," so-called, extending from Wheeler's corner north to Hamlin's store. Of course a hose company was formed to operate in conjunction with the engine.

The Cataract was kept in a small shanty on Head street, and the Neptune became the possession of the lower end of the street, being kept in an engine-house which stood just west of where the Shearman House is located. Subsequently another brake engine somewhat similar to the Neptune was purchased, and then the department began to assume more tangible shape and form. There were two engine companies, No. 1 and No. 2, and their co-operating hose companies. These fire department equipments supplied the village for many years, and until the purchase of the steamer in 1872.

In 1864 a charter was granted the village, and in the act then passed provision was made for a regularly organized and well appointed fire department and its commanding and governing officers. By the act the trustees were authorized to appoint one chief engineer, two assistant engineers, and three fire wardens; also to procure fire engines and other necessary and convenient apparatus, and to organize fire companies and provide for and maintain the same. Under this regime the chief and his assistants were chosen by the village trustees, a system that was continued in force until 1873, when another law was passed which provided that the engineers and secretary of the fire department should be elected by electors of the village, a system that is in effect at the present time.

Keuka Engine Company was organized in October, 1871, with eighty-three members. This body then petitioned the trustees to be allowed to organize themselves into a fire company, provided they were given charge of engine house No. 2 and engine No. 1. The petition was headed by Morris F. Sheppard and followed by eighty-two other strong men. The result was the organization of the now celebrated "Ellsworth Hose Company," so named in honor of Gen. S. S. Ellsworth, of Penn Yan. Originally this was an engine company, but partook of the character of a hose company in 1872 by the regular detail of a number of its members to act as hosemen.

Ellsworth Hose Company now numbers full forty men. It is or has been provided with uniforms for both active duty and parade occasions. The officers of Ellsworth Hose are as follows: President, John Underwood; secretary, John Cramer; treasurer, George Brooks; fireman, Fred Swarts; first assistant, A. J. Obertin; second assistant, Ralph Brown. The company meetings are held twice each month.

Hydrant Hose Company had its organization in 1866, under the original name of Hydraulic Hose Company, but afterward changed to its present designation. The company now numbers forty members, but its duty appears somewhat abridged in that it is not called into service except in case of fire on Main street, there being no hydrants on any other village thoroughfare, the regular hose duty being performed by Ellsworth Hose Company, which operates with the steamer throughout the fire district. The officers of Hydrant Hose are as follows: Fore-



man, Andrew McKay; first assistant, Peter Curran; second assistant, Arthur Jessup; secretary, William Holloway; treasurer, George C. Snow.

Hunter Hook and Ladder Company, more commonly known as the "Truck" Company, was organized in its present character in 1880, the same year in which the truck was purchased. Like the other companies the truck has forty members, and is officered as follows: President, Richard Willoughby; secretary, E. A. Chapman; treasurer, J. O. Smith; captain, George Wilkins; first assistant, F. Crane; second assistant, P. Carley. This company was named in honor of Charles Hunter, of Penn Yan.

The present Penn Yan Fire Department comprises, as will be seen from what has been stated, two hose companies, one hook and ladder company, both with necessary apparatus, and one second-class Silsby steam engine, the latter being in charge of an engineer and fireman. The department officers are as follows: Jay T. Parker, chief engineer; Andrew C. Harwick, first assistant; Frank McAdams, second assistant; H. E. Bell, secretary and treasurer.

However desirable it might be to furnish a complete succession of chief engineers of the fire department since Squire Locke's appointment, such a list cannot be given on account of the loss of records. But there can be recalled the names of many persons who have served in that capacity during the last twenty-five or thirty years. In 1863 Charles Elmendorf was chief, and was succeeded by Abraham Miller. From that until the present time there have served as chiefs, among others, these persons: David G. Gray, Oliver C. Knapp (1871), R. F. Scofield, Charles Bell, Charles Hunter, W. S. Bruen, Jay T. Parker.

*Banking Houses of Penn Yan.*—There was no banking house in this village prior to 1831. In fact there was but little need of such an institution, for currency and coin were scarce commodities, and produce of various kind was a recognized medium of exchange between the debtor and creditor. During the first twenty-five or thirty years of village history there were but few business houses in the place, while the country roundabout was likewise comparatively undeveloped. However, the village had its usual contingent of money lenders; men of capital who conducted a quasi banking business whenever and wherever occasion presented.

The first steps taken in the matter of organizing a bank under authority of the law occurred during the year 1831, when on the 2d of April the Yates County Bank was chartered and incorporated. Its original capital stock was \$100,000, which, as shown by the books of the concern upon its organization in September following, was subscribed for and owned by these persons: William M. Oliver, Andrew F. Oliver, Abraham H. Bennett, George Young, Mordacai Ogden, Alanson Douglass, Thomas W. Olcott, Alexander Marvin, James Harris, Samuel Stevens, Green C. Bronson, Ira G. Smith, Lot Clark, Eben Smith, Elias Patterson, William B. Welles, Henry B. Gibson, Olivia Hochstrasser, Grattan H. Wheeler, William W. McCay, Hervey Wheeler, Samuel S. Ellsworth, Asa Cole, and John Spicer.

The old Yates County Bank appears to have been a politico-financial institution, as it procured its charter through the influence, and was afterward managed and conducted in the interest of the so-called Hunker element of the Democratic party. In fact so radical in this respect became its controlling officers as to work disastrously to the welfare of the institution and contributed to its early downfall. It was organized under the then existing safety fund system, but was managed under unsafe business principles. William M. Oliver was its president and active financial officer, while John A. Welles acted in the capacity of cashier. The first place of business of the bank was in Mr. Oliver's office near his residence, but was afterward removed to the building standing where is now located Lown & Co.'s store. Here the bank ended its business career by a disastrous failure in 1848, by which failure many of the depositors lost to the extent of their credit accounts for a considerable time. Under the law as it then stood the directors could vote to pay, in liquidation of their debts, whatever per cent. they saw fit, and taking the benefits of this power the Yates County Bank voted to pay fifteen cents on the dollar. But there were persons who understood the inside workings of the bank who would not be satisfied with this meagre payment, and by speaking out at the proper time succeeded in realizing nearly the full amount of their claims. However, the safety fund system, under which the bank was chartered, brought to the other creditors a fair proportion of their deposits, but not until after several years of anxious suspense.

The Farmers' Bank of Penn Yan was brought into existence by a charter dated August 20, 1839, and was closed on account of unprofitable business in 1843. The active spirits in the organization of this bank, and in the conduct of its affairs, were Judge Samuel S. Ellsworth, Alvah Clark, and E. H. Huntington. The State issued currency to the concern, taking as security bonds, mortgages, and other collateral. The place of business was in the store now occupied by Frank Quackenbush as a drug store, and the old deposit vault still occupies a part of the ground floor. Originally and for a short time the bank did business on Main street, just north of Jacob, but was soon afterward moved to the store above mentioned. The Farmers' Bank was commonly known to the people as the "Red Dog Bank," and so called from the fact of its bills having red colored backs. The house eventually failed, upon which the State sold the securities and used the avails to pay depositors and creditors. The capital stock of the Farmers' Bank was \$100,000.

The Bank of Bainbridge was chartered by the State in April, 1847, and became a local institution two years later. In 1849 Nathan B. Kidder, formerly of Geneva, caused to be erected the bank building now occupied by the First National Bank, and about the same time purchased the Bainbridge concern and moved it to Penn Yan. He was its virtual owner, though its management was entrusted to Henry B. Bennett, afterward assisted by James Tims. By the former the bank was run about two years and then closed, although the reports state that Mr. Bennett continued to redeem its currency until 1863.

At that time, in the early fifties, Oliver Stark was an insurance agent of the village, a man of prominence and some means. He occupied the bank building in connection with his former business, and soon afterward determined to do general banking in connection therewith. For a number of years he was highly successful, but eventually he became involved by embarking in too extensive enterprises, and final disaster and failure was the natural result. Many residents of the locality were heavy losers by this failure, and but little was realized on settlement of the bank's affairs. The name under which the proprietor did business was "Oliver Stark, Banker." Mr. Stark operated as a banker for a period of about fifteen years.

J. T. Raplee's Bank is well remembered as one of the financial insti-

tutions of Penn Yan ; and remembered by some persons with feelings of deep sorrow and regret. It is understood that Mr. Raplee commenced business soon after 1860, although a State work gives the time as July 15, 1858. He occupied the old Yates County Bank building, and for some time did a successful business ; but, unfortunately for him, Mr. Raplee was a rabid Democrat, and so thoroughly impregnated his business with his political sentiments as to bring himself into disfavor with the majority of the people, and finally worked the ruin of his bank.

Following the downfall of the Stark and Raplee banks there appears to have been no banking concern in the village for some time. But merchants and dealers of the locality found temporary accommodation in this direction through the malting firm of George R. Youngs & Co., which was at that time one of the largest and safest business houses in the county.

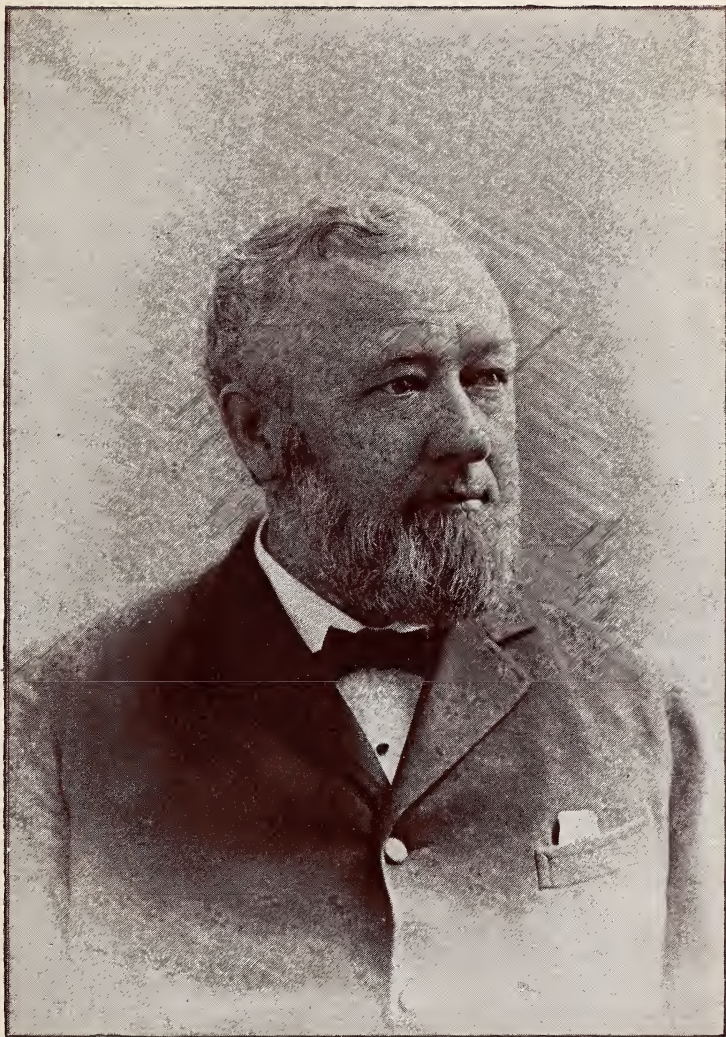
In October, 1869, Mason L. Baldwin, of Benton, established a private banking house in Penn Yan, and under the name of "M. L. Baldwin, Banker," continued a successful business until 1881. In the year last named, and the month of May, "Baldwin's Bank of Penn Yan" was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. Its capital stock, all paid in, was \$50,000. Its first board of directors comprised W. H. Fox, John T. Andrews, 2d, A. W. Franklin, Silas Kinne, and Mason L. Baldwin. The president chosen on the organization of the bank was Mr. Baldwin, and the cashiership was voted to Mr. Kinne, both of whom are still serving in their respective offices. This bank has been and now is a successful institution, having an accumulated surplus of more than \$50,000 ; a sum in excess of its capital. The present directors of Baldwin's Bank are as follows : Oliver G. Shearman, John P. Plaisted, W. H. Fox, Silas Kinne, and Mason L. Baldwin. Assistant cashier, Fred S. Plaisted.

The First National Bank of Penn Yan was organized by the purchase of the charter of the First National Bank of Watkins, and the removal thereof to this village, in pursuance of an act of Congress passed in 1873. The re-organized bank had and still has a capital stock of \$50,000. Its first board of directors was Ezekiel Castner, John C. Sheetz, James Forbes, William S. Briggs, John Southerland, George H. Lap-



ham, and Fred S. Armstrong. At the opening of its doors for business, April 1, 1873, the officers in charge of the bank's affairs were John C. Sheetz, president; William S. Briggs, vice-president; George H. Lapham, cashier. Mr. Sheetz retired from the presidency in 1885, and was succeeded by Mr. Lapham, the latter being now the chief managing officer of the bank. H. K. Armstrong became cashier on Mr. Lapham's advancement, and in 1889 A. W. Kendall was appointed assistant cashier. Also in 1889 Judge Briggs retired from the vice-presidency and Theodore F. Wheeler was elected to the vacancy. In 1890 Mr. Armstrong resigned the cashiership, and Mr. Kendall was elected to that position. Since 1889 there has been no change in the direction, which is as follows: John C. Sheetz, John Southerland, Clarence W. Perkins, John T. Knox, Theodore F. Wheeler, George H. Lapham, and James H. Gamby. At the commencement of business in 1873 the First National Bank had a surplus of \$7,000, an amount that has since increased to more than \$25,000. The reports of the first fifteen years of the bank's business show net profits of \$103,731.56, of which \$75,500 was paid in dividends to stockholders; \$23,000 carried to surplus; and \$5,231.56 to undivided profit account. For the period named the bank has shown a net profit of fourteen per cent. per annum, with bad debts and losses all charged off.

The Yates County National Bank was incorporated December 30, 1878, under the national banking laws, with a capital stock of \$50,000. About the same time the bank opened its doors for business. Its first board of directors was as follows: Andrew Oliver, Charles C. Sheppard, Nelson Thompson, John Lewis, Morris F. Sheppard, Theodore Bogart, George R. Cornwell, George S. Sheppard, and Ralph T. Wood. The officers were Andrew Oliver, president; Morris F. Sheppard, vice president; Frank R. Durry, cashier. In 1881 Mr. Oliver retired from the presidency and was succeeded by Morris F. Sheppard, the latter having been the chief managing and executive office from that until the present time. The vacancy created by Mr. Sheppard's advancement was filled by the election of Theodore Bogart. The latter was afterward superceded by John L. Dinturff, and he still later by the present vice-president, Daniel Lanning. The Yates County Bank is and ever since its incorporation has been a safe, strong, and well managed



ARTOTYPE PROCESS.

*Gro. Hapner*



financial institution, and one, too, that enjoys a full share of the public confidence and support. During its thirteen years of business the bank has accumulated a surplus of more than \$15,000. Its place of business is at No. 34 Main street. The officers and directors of the bank are as follows: Morris F. Sheppard, president; Daniel Lanning, vice-president; Oliver H. Stark, cashier. Directors, Morris F. Sheppard, Daniel Lanning, S. W. Van Deventer, John H. Butler, S. H. Sheppard, William T. Morris, Oliver H. Stark.

*Local Improvement Companies.*—Of this class of institutions the village has but four, which will be treated in the order of seniority.

The Penn Yan Gas Light Company was incorporated May 12, 1860, with a capital stock of \$10,000. The incorporators were Darius O. Ogden, Levi O. Dunning, George McAllister, S. H. Welles, John McDougall, and Charles M. Stark. The first officers were D. A. Ogden, president; S. H. Welles, secretary and treasurer. Since the organization the capital stock of the company has been twice increased; first, in August, 1860, to \$12,000, and again in June, 1868, to \$24,750. The company now has about six miles of main pipe. Its principal works are on Jackson street. The present board of directors is as follows: William T. Morris, Thomas W. Summers, W. H. Fox, Edson Potter, and Morgan D. Tracy. Officers, William T. Morris, president and treasurer; Thomas W. Summers, secretary and superintendent.

The Lake Keuka Ice Company (Limited), was incorporated March 30, 1888, having a capital stock of \$3,500, by Daniel Beach, Oliver G. Shearman, Samuel S. Ellsworth, Perley P. Curtis, Thomas G. Ross, Morgan D. Tracy, and William T. Morris. The officers were O. G. Shearman, president; S. S. Ellsworth, vice-president; P. P. Curtis, treasurer; W. T. Morris, secretary; Morgan D. Tracy, general manager. From the time of organization to the present there has been no change either in the direction or officers of the company.

The Penn Yan Opera House Company (Limited) was incorporated in 1889, having a capital stock of \$10,000 in 200 shares; but the capital stock by no means represents the total value of the company's real and personal property. As its name implies, the purpose for which the company was organized was the building of a suitable and commodious opera house in the village of Penn Yan; and that the designs of its cor-



porators and stockholders were carried out to the full satisfaction of every patron of such institutions, is amply attested on each occasion of a public assemblage beneath its roof. In fact, it is a common remark, and one founded in absolute truth, that no similar village in the State of New York has a superior, more elegant, or better equipped place of amusement or entertainment than has the village of Penn Yan in the Sheppard Opera House. As has been stated, the nominal capital stock of the company is \$10,000, but the property with its franchises represents an investment of \$23,000, an amount that was mainly contributed by the public-spirited citizens of the village. The plans for the house were prepared by Leon H. Lempert, of Rochester. The builders were H. O. Dorman & Co., of Corning. The opera house has a seating capacity of 800. The work of construction was commenced in 1889, and completed in 1890. It was then christened "Sheppard Opera House" in honor of Morris F. Sheppard, its principal founder, and one of the largest stock owners of the company. The directors of the company are Morris F. Sheppard, John H. Lown, Hanford Struble, Samuel S. Ellsworth, James MacKellar, Charles V. Bush, William T. Morris, T. S. Burns, Edward Kendall. Officers, Morris F. Sheppard, president; J. H. Lown, vice president; W. T. Morris, secretary; C. V. Bush, treasurer; C. H. Sisson, manager.

The Penn Yan Electric Light and Power Company was incorporated in August, 1891, with a capital stock of \$100,000. The directors are Henry Russell, Calvin Russell, H. Q. Stimpson, Calvin Russell, jr., C. T. Birkett, H. L. Woodruff, and W. S. Bruen. Officers, H. Q. Stimpson, president; Calvin Russell, vice-president and treasurer; W. S. Bruen, secretary. The electric lighting system was introduced in Penn Yan in 1889, and the present company is the outgrowth of the firm that owned and managed the original plant.

*Societies and Orders.*—Keuka Lodge No. 149, I. O. O. F., was originally instituted May, 2, 1845, having these charter members: Andrew Oliver, Peter S. Oliver, John Gregg, George R. Youngs, and Samuel H. Welles. First officers: Andrew Oliver, N. G.; George R. Youngs, V. G.; Peter S. Oliver, secretary; Samuel H. Welles, treasurer; John L. Lewis, jr., warden; Charles G. Judd, conductor.

The first twelve years of the lodge's history were exceedingly pros-

perous, but for the next score or so of years the society appears to have suffered from inactivity and want of attention, which nearly proved fatal to its existence. A new charter was granted March 18, 1879, and the lodge became re-established upon a permanent basis. The charterees under the new dispensation were George D. Stewart, Charles N. Burrill, Joseph T. Slaughter, James B. Norris, Moses W. Eastman, and George Kinner. The officers elected at that time were George D. Stewart, N. G. ; Charles N. Burrill, V. G. ; Joseph T. Slaughter, secretary ; Moses W. Eastman, treasurer.

Succession of Past Grands (since re-organization) : E. R. Bordwell, S. B. Briggs, G. H. Brown, P. W. Danes, W. B. Davies, C. Elmendorf, E. G. Hopkins, G. F. Hopkins, C. Hunter, A. Jessup, George B. Kinner, G. S. Klingman, J. T. Knox, R. B. Lefferts, F. H. Lynn, J. F. Morris, J. B. Norris, H. W. Perkins, R. C. Peters, J. F. Randolph, D. C. Robinson, R. F. Scofield, G. D. Stewart, N. S. Dailey, A. C. Harwick, W. R. McFarren, George W. Miller.

Keuka Lodge has a present membership of ninety persons, and is officered as follows : John T. Knox, district deputy and grand master ; George W. Miller, N. G. ; Frank M. Royce, V. G. ; Ralph N. Cole, secretary ; Arthur Jessup, permanent secretary ; C. Elmendorf, treasurer.

*Penn Yan Encampment of Patriarchs*, No. 98, I. O. O. F., was organized in pursuance of charter dated April 6, 1882, having for charter members George D. Stewart, John L. Lewis, Joseph T. Slaughter, Levi O. Dunning, Charles N. Burrill, Charles Lee, James B. Norris, and George B. Kinner. The first principal officers were these : George B. Stewart, C. P. ; Charles Lee, H. P. ; Joseph T. Slaughter, scribe ; L. O. Dunning, treasurer. The encampment has a present membership of fifty, and is officered as follows : Benjamin S. Briggs, C. P. ; John J. Hood, H. P. ; William Sattler, S. W. ; William Holloway, J. W. ; C. Elmendorf, scribe ; George W. Miller, treasurer.

*J. B. Sloan Post* No. 93, G. A. R., was granted a charter on April 22, 1869. The original members were Martin S. Hicks, Abb W. Shearman, Jere S. Weed, George Titus, S. Harvey Ackley, Hanford Struble, Truman N. Burrill, J. Lorin Robbins, Cassius N. McFarren, Josiah C. Baker. The first officers were Martin S. Hicks, commander ; A. W.

Shearman, S. V. C. ; Jere S. Weed, J. V. C. ; Charles B. Turner, adjutant ; S. H. Ackley, Q.M. ; T. N. Burrill, O. of G. ; J. L. Robbins, O. of D. ; Hanford Struble, chaplain.

Although Sloan Post began its existence and history under the most favorable auspices, it was not long before dissensions found their way into its ranks with such result that its usefulness was virtually destroyed and its life practically at an end. But the necessity of a G. A. R. organization was so strongly manifested on several occasions that a number of the older members united upon its re-establishment. Upon their petition the charter was re-issued on the 17th of May, 1872. Therefore it may be said that the old society has never lost its identity. From the time of reorganization Sloan Post has been one of the strongest orders having an abiding place at the county seat. During its existence the total muster roll has shown 215 members, the present number being 100. The present officers are these : Commander, John F. Randolph ; S. V. C., Charles H. Dunning ; J. V. C., Russell H. Carr ; adjutant, Edward Kendall ; surgeon, David Philbrooks ; chaplain, O. R. Towner ; Q. M., Philo H. Conklin ; O. of D., D. C. Robinson ; O. of G., James Taylor ; Q. M. S., G. B. Barden ; Sergeant Major, John H. Veeder ; delegate, Charles Kelley. Past commanders, Martin S. Hicks, 1869-71 ; C. N. McFarren, 1872-73 ; Jerry S. Reed, 1874-75 ; Morris F. Shepard, 1876 ; D. C. Robinson, 1877 ; H. M. Mingay, 1878, 1884 ; John F. Randolph, 1879-80, 1891 ; James M. Smith, 1881 ; Hanford Struble, 1882-83 ; Richard H. Andrews, 1885 ; Perry W. Danes, 1886-88 ; George W. Hobart, 1889-90.

*Minneseta Lodge* No. 234, K. of P., was chartered July 28, 1886, with original members as follows : D. D. Turner, William M. Johnson, S. B. Ables, John T. Andrews, 2d, Edward Kendall, George R. Cornwell, Theodore G. Ross, James A. Thayer, William C. Allen, Charles C. Hayes, Bert Stiles, A. H. Veasey, Frank R. Knapp, A. C. Clube, Toby Bush, H. A. Struble. The Pythian Knights are ranked among the stronger and more influential orders of the village, the present members numbering ninety, and of whom nearly all are in good standing in the society. The lodge rooms, too, are the best in the locality. The present officers of the lodge are as follows : F. N. Swarts, P. C. ; H. A. Struble, C. C. ; H. C. Sherman, V. C. ; Stephen Bailey, P. ; J. A. Ams-

bury, K. of R. S.; Charles Bell, M. F.; J. J. McInerney, M. E.; John Ackley, M. A.; Charles Jobbitt, I. G.; William O'Brien, O. G.

*Harwick Lodge* No. 152, A. O. U. W., was instituted May 3, 1878, with charter members as follows: William W. Eastman, Arthur S. Bush, Charles Bell, George F. Morgan, David B. Gray, Horace C. Guthrie, Delos A. Bellis, M. E. Botsford, C. Irving Paige, Charles H. Sisson, Charles F. Morgan, E. H. Hopkins, C. Elmendorf, Francis E. Murphy, Fred N. Miller, and William A. Henderson. First officers: P. M. W., Andrew C. Harwick; M. W., H. C. Guthrie; foreman, D. G. Gray; overseer, C. W. Morgan; recorder, Charles Elmendorf; financier, E. H. Hopkins; recorder, C. H. Sisson; G., M. E. Botsford; I. W., C. I. Paige; O. W., Charles Bell.

Harwick Lodge has a present membership of forty-four persons. Its present officers are as follows: P. M. W., William Holloway; M. W., Gilbert A. Brown; foreman, George B. Dunning; overseer, Taylor Dunn; recorder, John T. Gaige; financier, A. C. Harwick; recorder, H. C. Guthrie; G., C. Elmendorf; I. G., E. B. Sample; O. G., Allen Meade.

*Keuka Council* No. 179, R. T. of T., was chartered February 2, 1889. Its charter members were F. S. Sampson, Ella F. Sampson, Eda L. Comings, George A. Comings, S. N. Thayer, Minerva Thayer, Amelia A. Carroll, William F. Whaites, I. J. Wilmarth, A. G. Tompkins, Cornelia S. Tompkins, A. J. Preston, William H. Moore, C. E. Brockway, Lewis Radder, Cora Radder, A. M. Todd. First officers, A. G. Tompkins, S. C.; A. M. Todd, V. C.; C. E. Brockway, chaplain; Ella F. Sampson, recording secretary; A. J. Preston, financial secretary; George A. Comings, treasurer; Lewis Radder, herald; Cora Radder, deputy herald; S. N. Thayer, guard; William F. Whaites, sentinel; F. S. Sampson, medical examiner.

*Metawissa Tribe* No. 124, I. O. of R. M., was organized in pursuance of a charter granted the 23d Sun of the Hunting Moon. The charter members were Frank M. Fletcher, George S. Klingman, Fred S. Sayer, John Hood, George Brown, W. T. Murphy, Homer Pelton, J. M. Smith, Isaac Sands, Eugene Harrington, John Ball, James Ball, Dayton Coons, Charles Welles, Charles Southerland, David D. Taylor, Wilson Taylor, Edward Dunning.

*Masonic*.—Having an abiding place in the village of Penn Yan are



four Masonic organizations named and known respectively as Milo Lodge No. 108, Penn Yan Chapter No. 100, Ontario Council No. 23, and Jerusalem Commandery No. 17. Under all ordinary circumstances each of these societies should receive in this place the same mention that is made of other societies, but inasmuch as Freemasonry in Yates County is made the subject of special chapter in the present volume, the necessity of extended mention here is avoided. To all, therefore, who are interested in the order, the request is hereby made that they refer to a preceding chapter of general history.

*Manufacturing Industries of Penn Yan.*—That branch of commercial industry commonly called manufacturing has never succeeded in gaining a substantial and permanent foothold in this village. This may in a measure be accounted for in the fact that the locality unfortunately possesses but a single stream capable of furnishing natural power to any considerable extent; but the stream which furnishes power—the outlet of Keuka Lake—however limited its capacity, is nevertheless taxed to its utmost degree, and but little of its water passes to Seneca Lake without having been utilized by at least half a dozen large factories. However, the majority of these manufactories are outside the corporate limits of the village, and are institutions of the town of Milo rather than of Penn Yan.

The principal manufacturing establishment of the village is the industry owned and operated by the present firm of Russell & Birkett, and known as the Penn Yan mills. These mills comprise two large frame buildings, each having extensions or additions of less size. One is known as a roller flour-mill, and the other as a feed and grist-mill. They stand on almost historic ground, for here David Wagener first diverted the waters of the outlet in pioneer times, and while at work building the dam across the stream Mr. Wagener contracted a cold that ultimately resulted in his death. The work was afterward taken up and completed by Abraham Wagener, who also built the pioneer mills on the privilege.

The old property was owned by Mr. Wagener for some years, and then passed by sale to Aaron Remer, John Sloan, Abner Woodworth, and John J. Rosenbury, the purchase price being about \$25,000. Next Ezekiel Casner<sup>1</sup> became proprietor of the mill on the north side of the

<sup>1</sup> For an extended biographical sketch of Mr. Casner see page 519.



*Ezekiel Cowner*



stream. He came to the village in 1824, and was employed by Abraham Wagener, who was his uncle. John Scheetz<sup>1</sup> afterward came to Penn Yan and became partner with Mr. Casner, and the firm of Casner & Scheetz, proprietors of the old "brown mill," was of many years standing, and of excellent reputation in the county. The death of Mr. Casner, in 1882, ended the partnership, after which the property together with the mill south of the outlet was sold to the "syndicate," comprising John T. Andrews 2d, Calvin Russell, W. H. Fox, Oliver G. Shearman, Seneca L. Pratt, and P. P. Curtis, which company made great improvements in the property and buildings in 1883. But the syndicate company became involved in some misunderstanding, with result in an action in partition and the final sale of the plant to John T. Andrews 2d. The latter with Mr. Russell as partner operated both mills for some time, when Mr. Russell became its owner, afterward associating with himself in the business his son-in-law, Clarence T. Birkett, under the name of Russell & Birkett.

The old "white mill," built by Abraham Wagener, was sold by him to Jeremiah Gillett, and from the latter descended to his sons, Jeremiah S. and Richard Gillett. This property has since undergone more changes in proprietorship than did its companion property on the opposite side of the stream. Among the persons interested in its operation can be recalled the names of Edward Gillett, James Longwell, Oliver F. Reed, James Forbes, and William W. Armfield, each of whom were after the Gillett Brothers, and before its sale to the syndicate, which last company rebuilt the entire structure and replaced the white mill with the present large roller-mill. Since 1883 the history of the latter has been identical with the grist and feed-mill.

St. John's Mill, so-called, stands about half a mile down the outlet, on a site originally occupied by a saw-mill, but afterwards put to divers uses by many proprietors in succession. Joseph St. John became interested in the property about 1857, when he and A. W. Franklin built a grist-mill, which was destroyed by fire. Before that time, however, Mr. St. John operated it as a saw-mill. The present grist-mill replaced the former building of the same character, and has since been operated as above named.

Above the St. John Mill stands an old unoccupied factory, on a site

<sup>1</sup> For an extended biographical sketch of Mr. Scheetz see page 495.



where the waters of the outlet were diverted for manufacturing purposes nearly if not quite three-quarters of a century ago. The more recent use of the privilege has been in operating a planing-mill, sash and door factory, known as the Armstrong mill.

Near the property last described, and a few rods further up the stream is another factory now in disuse. Here formerly stood a plaster-mill, much in use during the canal days, but afterward turned into a basket factory. Its last occupant was A. W. Franklin.

The present Penn Yan planing-mill, and in fact the only completely equipped industry of its kind in the village, is that operated under the name of M. B. Miller & Co., limited. The plant on Lake street was first established by John S. Sheppard in 1870, and by him operated in connection with his extensive lumber business. The building, which was of frame construction, was burned in 1884, and replaced by a more substantial brick structure during the same year. In 1876 the plant was leased by Mr. Sheppard to Miller & Holloway, but after the fire the property and leasehold came back to the owner of the fee. Since that time Mr. Miller has acted in the capacity of manager under the firm style first above mentioned.

Potter, Kinne & Kendall is the firm name of one of the largest lumber dealers of the village or county. Their principal offices and yards are on Benham street, with a second point on the Northern Central Railroad. In connection with their lumber business the firm also has a planing and matching-mill. The present firm is the successor to the old partnership of R. B. Lefferts and Edson Potter.

The Commercial Iron Works Company was organized in 1872, with a capital stock of \$15,000. J. H. Benton was its president; John Whittaker, secretary and treasurer; and John Lynn, superintendent. In 1876 the principal machine shop was erected, it being in size 35 x 84 feet. The foundry adjoining is 40 x 40 feet in dimensions. The present officers are the practical owners and managers of the company's works. John Whittaker is the president; John Lynn, secretary and treasurer; and Fred H. Lynn, general foreman. The company employs ten men. The shops are on the south side of Lake street, in rear.

Prior to 1872 Timothy Brigden was the owner of a carriage and wagon factory which stood on Jacob street. In the year named the

property was burned, after which the firm of Beebe, Whitfield & Co. became owners of the land, upon which were erected the present extensive buildings which comprise the factory plant of George Beebe. Their manufactures were the same as previously produced by Mr. Bridgen. Messrs. Beebe & Whitfield were partners for about eleven years, Mr. Beebe then becoming sole proprietor. He is a general manufacturer of carriages, but his specialty is the "Dandy Speeding Cart," a vehicle of improved pattern and quality, and one that is received with great favor by the driving fraternity.

The carriage works of Whitfield & McCormick are located on Jacob street near Main. The partnership comprises William H. Whitfield and Michael McCormick, each of whom is a practical man in his line of trade. The firm was established in May, 1888. Its general business is the manufacture of fine carriages, carts, cutters, etc., together with general repair work. Mr. Whitfield has charge of the office and business management, while Mr. McCormick is the practical man in the manufacturing department.

The Parks Manufacturing Company is the almost direct outgrowth of a still older business industry carried on by James Cooley in the line of wagon making. Mr. Parks succeeded Mr. Cooley in 1853, and two years later took Deacon J. D. Applegate as partner. In 1857 Mr. Applegate retired, and Sherer and Caton succeeded, the firm becoming Parks, Sherer & Co. The new partners soon retired, and Mr. Parks continued until 1876, and then sold out to Birdsall & Co., who changed the plant to a threshing machine factory. After this sale Mr. Parks built a shop in rear of Cornwell's Opera House and carried on the carriage business until 1885, when he re-occupied the old stand on Head street. The firm now was Parks & Allington, but two months after C. V. Bush was made a partner, continuing only thirty days. Then the Parks Manufacturing Company was formed, comprising Marvin Parks and C. W. Morgan.

The firm of O. G. Shearman & Co., malsters, was organized in 1882 as successors in part to the firm of Shearman & Lewis, grain dealers. The latter partnership was formed as early as May 1, 1860, since which time it has continued to carry on business. The firm of O. G. Shearman & Co. comprised Oliver G. Shearman, John Lewis, E. C. Dwelle,

and George R. Youngs. Under this ownership the "Yates County Malt House" was built in 1882. As its name indicates, the purpose of this erection was the manufacture of barley into malt. The building has a capacity of 75,000 bushels. In 1888 Mr. Youngs withdrew from the firm, whereupon the name and style was changed to Shearman, Lewis & Dwelle, as at present known.

The old malt house standing on the street leading from the Knapp House to the locks was built in 1856, by George R. Youngs, Daniel Foster, Daniel W. Streeter, and Jared C. Munson, under the firm name of D. W. Streeter & Co. Mr. Munson soon dropped out of the concern, and the name was then changed to George R. Youngs & Co. Mr. Streeter subsequently failed, and under the style of Youngs & Foster the business of malting was continued until about 1866 or 1867, when, Captain Henry Tuthill and "Doc." Tuthill, became its proprietors by purchase. Later the firm became H. Tuthill & Son, and so continued until the failure of the concern in 1890.

Robert C. Hewson's feed mill on Sucker Brook was established in 1890. The extensive evaporating plant owned and operated by the same proprietor was started about 1880.

The large grape basket factory owned by S. L. Pratt was built during the spring of 1891. It stood at the foot of Monell street, and was eighty-two by thirty-five feet and three stories high. This was the best equipped mill of its kind in the county, but it was destroyed by an unfortunate fire during the latter part of August, 1891.

The carriage and cart works of T. S. Watrous were put in operation on Stark avenue in February, 1890. They furnish employment to five men.

The Struble Kidney and Liver Cure Company was incorporated in 1890, having a capital stock of \$50,000. The object of the company was and is to furnish to suffering humanity a prompt and sure cure for diseases of the kidneys and liver. The medicine prepared is the same as used for fifteen years by Dr. H. A. Struble in his professional work. The incorporators of the company were Hanford Struble, H. N. Huntington, James Spicer, Henry Sherman, Fred U. Swarts, M. B. Shaw, and H. A. Struble. The officers are, Fred U. Swarts, president; M. B. Shaw, vice-president; H. C. Sherman, secretary; H. N. Huntington, treasurer; and H. A. Struble, general manager.

The Hammondsport Vintage Company was established in Penn Yan in 1886, by Charles Hunter, Frank Hallet and Charles M. Rarrick. In 1887 Mr. Rarrick became sole proprietor and has so continued to the present time. Originally the place of business of the firm and company was in the so-called concrete building on Canal street, but with the building of the Cold Storage block the factory and plant were transferred to that place. The products of the company are sweet and dry wines and brandies ; also they are dealers in champagnes. The cellar has a capacity of 30,000 gallons of wine.

Borgman's Cider-Mill and Distillery was built by Barney Borgman in 1869. The manufactures of this mill are cider and champagne. Capacity, 20,000 gallons.

The Penn Yan Hub and Spoke Works were established in the fall of 1888, by E. A. Price & Co., for the manufacture of hubs and spokes of all kinds, and incidental to the leading product, as a custom saw-mill. Sixteen men are employed in and about the shops on Head street.

*Hotels.*—A preceding portion of the present chapter has referred at some length to the hotel interests and proprietors of the past in the village of Penn Yan ; wherefore it becomes the province of this division of the subject to refer only to such public houses as are in existence at the present time, and that in the most brief manner.

The hotels of Penn Yan are numerous, almost "too numerous to mention." This happens to be a locality in which the most liberal construction is placed upon the meaning of the existing laws, rendering it quite difficult to define just what does or does not constitute a hotel, tavern or inn. The object in establishing so many hotels in the village is plain and perfectly well understood, and is a subject that needs no comment in this place. Many of them will receive no mention in this work.

The Benham House is the largest and most convenient of the hotels of the village. It was built soon after the burning of the old American, and has been one of the leading public houses of Penn Yan from that time until the present. It was named for its proprietor, and still holds the original appellation, notwithstanding the changes of proprietorship.

The Shearman House, on Elm street, was so named by its proprie-



tor, Charles Shearman. The house was established many years ago by "Arn" Tuell, a local celebrity, but succeeding proprietors have made frequent additions to the building. The present owner and proprietor, Fred U. Swarts, purchased the property in 1888, becoming its landlord January 1st of that year.

The Knapp House was formerly and originally called the Mansion House. It was built for a dwelling in 1816, by Abraham Wagener, but after he moved to Bluff Point the house was remodeled and made into a hotel. It became the Knapp House through the ownership of Oliver C. Knapp, who not only materially enlarged the building, but veneered it with brick. Since the death of Mr. Knapp the property has been managed as an estate.

The Central House, on Jacob street, was established by Charles Kelly soon after he returned from the army. He bought the property in 1860. The old building was burned in 1872, after which the present substantial brick hotel building was erected. The Central House has a capacity for accommodating forty guests.

The other hotels of the village, which are public houses for the reception and accommodation of travelers, are the Hayes House, located near the Northern Central depot, the Suburban Hotel on Head street, in the extreme north part of the village, and the Hyland House, in Maiden Lane.

*Mercantile Business Interests.*—In the village of Penn Yan the mercantile interests in every branch of trade are well represented, and while it is quite natural that every representative should believe his particular line to be overdone in the matter of competition, still to the unprejudiced and candid observer this does not appear to be the case. The mercantile business of Penn Yan is principally transacted on the thoroughfares Main, Elm and Jacob streets, with other stores scattered throughout the place. It is neither the purpose nor the intention of this division of the present chapter to advertise in any manner the business of Penn Yan merchants, but if any tradesman can derive any benefit or advantage from the mention of his name or business in this connection he is certainly welcome to the good that may come out of it.

The book and stationery trade is fairly well represented. The most extensive dealer in this line is George R. Cornwell, at No. 39 Main

street. Mr. Cornwell embarked in this business in October, 1858, as successor to E. Denton. He purchased the building soon afterward, and about 1875 fitted up and equipped the Cornwell Opera House, occupying therefor the rooms over his and the adjoining store. Mr. Cornwell is also an extensive dealer in sewing machines and musical instruments. The other booksellers and stationers of the village are H. C. Guthrie, H. Sherwood and Mrs. A. V. Mastin.

The leading grocers of the village are F. W. Steelman, Lucius P. Wagener, Charles Hunter, McMath & Morgan, MacKay & Co., Norman Lockwood, Johnson & Hazen, B. F. Fenner, John Brown, T. S. Burns, C. W. Coffin, Eaton Brothers, McCarty Bros., and M. W. Phalen.

The general dry goods trade is represented by four large and substantial houses. The oldest of these is the present firm of T. O. Hamlin & Co., at No. 44 Main street. This business house was first established in Penn Yan by Myron Hamlin, a former merchant of Dundee, then known as Harpending's Corners. Mr. Hamlin established himself where Stewart & Burnham's shoe store now is, but soon afterward moved the stock to the opposite side of Main street, about where D. A. Ogden's hardware store is located. In 1842 Abraham F. Hazen, who was a former clerk in the store, became Mr. Hamlin's partner, having charge of a branch store at Rushville for a single year, and afterward locating at the county seat in connection with the principal business. After five years of pleasant and profitable partnership Mr. Hazen retired from the firm of Hamlin & Hazen and established himself in trade. In 1858 Mr. Hamlin occupied the store now owned by his son, and as his sons arrived at full age they were associated with him in the business. The firm name thus became M. Hamlin & Sons, and so continued until two had retired and Theodore O. Hamlin only remained, when the style of M. Hamlin & Son was adopted. This continued until the death of the senior member in 1886. Theodore conducted the business thereafter until February, 1890, when H. C. Underwood became his partner, under the present firm name. George E. Hamlin, one of the sons, left the firm in 1865 and went into the carpet business in New York. Another son, Charles Hamlin, engaged in business in Syracuse, leaving the firm in 1877. Abraham F. Hazen, above mentioned, went to Dundee a poor boy, in 1833, walking a part of the distance from

Chemung County to that place. He was taken by Mr. Hamlin as clerk at \$5 per month, increased to \$7 the second year. He was Mr. Hamlin's clerk also in Penn Yan from 1837 to 1842, when he was taken in as partner. After conducting the Rushville branch store one year he came back to the county seat and continued in the main house until about 1848, when he bought the dry goods stock of Daniel S. Marsh, which business he managed successfully about five or six years, then selling out and going to New York. In the latter city he advanced through the grades of clerkship and managing clerk to finally becoming the leading and senior member of the large house of Hazen, Todd & Co., jobbers of dry goods. About four years ago Mr. Hazen retired from active business. (Here is another apt illustration of the possibilities open to every earnest, industrious young man.)

The present firm of Lown & Co. is composed of J. H. Lown and H. J. McAdams. Their business is the indirect outgrowth of that established in 1871 by Jones & Lown, then being located where is now T. F. Wheeler's drug store. In 1877 the firm name changed to J. H. Lown & Co., and still later to the present name. The Lown block was built in 1889-90, and occupied by the firm. Their stock includes dry goods, carpets, millinery, crockery and glassware.

The dry goods house and firm of Roenke & Rogers was established in April, 1881, by Julius R. Roenke and Jerome D. Rogers. Their place of business is at the corner of Main street and Maiden Lane.

Cassius N. McFarren became a dry goods merchant of Penn Yan in September, 1891, by the purchase of the stock and former business of George Cramer.

*Dealers in Drugs and Medicines.*—The village has four substantial representatives of this branch of trade, viz.: Theodore F. Wheeler, established in 1864, as successor to Lyman Munger; W. W. Quackenbush, established 1867, as successor to Lapham & Bullock; E. Fenton, April, 1877, successor to Miles Lewis; Frank Quackenbush, established April 28, 1879.

*Hardware Dealers.*—Hollowell & Wise, J. C. Shannon & Son, Wixson & Woodruff, D. O. Ogden.

*Clothiers, Furnishers, and Merchant Tailors.*—McAdams Brothers, McMahan Bros., Seligman & McNiff, Marks Bros., the Globe Clothing

store, E. Donahue, M. C. Stark, John Walters, Charles Bandel, Jacob Davis.

*Boot and Shoe Dealers.*—J. Henry Smith, Wagener Bros., Stewart & Burnham, A. Deckerman,

*Fair Stores.*—A. J. Obertin, Hood & Co., Singer & Strong.

*Agricultural Implements.*—J. C. Shannon & Son, C. C. Hicks, James M. Smith, D. O. Ogden, Hollowell & Wise, Wixson & Woodruff, A. F. Stark.

*Cigar Manufacturers.*—James Meade, John Birmingham, Joseph F. Markey, C. A. Mansen, Peter Curran.

*Furniture Dealers.*—Clarence H. Knapp, A. C. Klube.

*Undertakers.*—Clarence H. Knapp, Hopkins Brothers.

*Elevators.*—Freeman & Barber, George Bruen.

*Coal Dealers.*—S. S. Ellsworth, Freeman & Barber, Sheppard-Comings Co., Potter, Kinne & Kendall.

*Harnessmakers and Dealers.*—Arthur Jessup, A. V. Masten, J. F. Bridgman, William Hollowell, L. P. Wickham, William Corcoran.

*Insurance Agents.*—Norris S. Dailey, A. C. Harwick, H. M. T. Ayers, Bush & Co., Silas Kinne, M. F. Hobart, W. P. Gaylord.

*Jewelers.*—E. H. Hopkins, S. B. Dunton.

*Livery and Boarding Stables.*—W. T. Beaumont, Emmet Hazard, Patrick Burns, C. H. Southerland.

*Lumber Dealers*—Potter, Kinne & Kendall, Eugene Lewis, Charles D. Welles.

*Meat Markets.*—Charles S. Bell, William McEvoy, Hyland & Caviston, James Dolan, L. A. Sprague, W. H. Stark, Gilbert Carroll, A. & D. O. Carroll.

*Nurseryman.*—Justus O. Rupert.

*Painters and Glaziers.*—D. Clinton Robinson, George W. Kritzer, E. Thomas, I. M. Ballard.

*Dentists.*—H. R. Phillips & Wrean, Charles Elmendorf, R. W. Reynolds, W. W. Smith, O. S. Voak.

*Photographers.*—Frank Carey, Fred F. Crum.

*Bakers.*—C. R. Robinson, George Zeluff.



## CHAPTER XXI.

## HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF BENTON.

IT requires no stretch of conscience, no exaggeration of fact, to say concerning the town of Benton, that among the towns of Yates County, or even among the towns of Western New York, it ranks with the foremost in point of thrift, wealth, enterprise, productiveness, and generous hospitality on the part of the present generation of inhabitants therein. And what is true regarding them is also said to have been characteristic of their ancestors. The early history of settlement, development, and improvement in this town was not dissimilar to that of other towns in the same region, the localities bordering on Seneca Lake. The lands here were a part of the Phelps and Gorham purchase, and being surveyed, the greater portion of the town, as at present constituted, comprised township No. 8, of the first range. This implies that its eastern boundary abutted the old pre-emption line, which was the fact; but in making disposition of the lands east of the line and west of the lake, the district of territory between these boundaries was included within Benton.

Originally, before Benton as a town was set off, township No. 8, first range, together with the land east of it, and Milo as well, were all a part of the district of Jerusalem, a provisional township of old Ontario County, organized as such for jurisdictional purposes upon and soon after the erection of the mother county. The district of Jerusalem was organized in 1789, but the town itself, within substantially its present limits, was not organized until 1803.

The district of Jerusalem was settled mainly by the followers of the Universal Friend, whose principal habitations were on the shores of Seneca Lake and the vicinity of the mouth of the outlet, and in the town of Jerusalem, as now designated, while scattering settlements of this peculiar people extended northward into the town of Benton proper, or, more strictly speaking, into township No. 8 of the first range. This settlement by the Friends commenced about 1788, and continued until

the closing years of that century. In the meantime settlement was being rapidly made by other pioneers than the Friends, and who had nothing in common with them either in religious belief or sympathy with the Friend's teachings. In fact they were believers in the Christian religion as taught by established denominational churches, and the peculiar manner and method of worship indulged in by the Friends found no favor in their eyes. Therefore they sought to be set off into a separate township, using as a means of accomplishing that end a petition to the Court of Sessions about to be held at Canandaigua; which petition was as follows:

"The petition of many of the inhabitants of Jerusalem humbly sheweth: That whereas, many of the reputable inhabitants of No. 8, in the first range in this town do wish to be incorporated into a town by themselves; and to prevent disputes and preserve friendship among us, we pray this Honorable Court to set off said No. 8 into a town by the name of Wilton, with all the liberty and privileges which other towns in the State of New York have and enjoy. And your petitioners in duty bound will ever pray. February 1, 1799. (Signed), Griffin B. Hazard, Enoch Shearman, Benjamin Durham, Silas Hunt, James Parker, John Plympton, Benjamin Briggs, William Ardery James Scofield, George Wheeler, Nathan Wheeler, Elisha Wolcott, Elisha Woodworth, Ezra Rice, Samuel Buell, jr., Eliphalet Hall, Joel P. Sawyer, Daniel Stull, Daniel Brown, Perley Dean, Francis Dains, Jesse Dains, Joshua Andrews, Levi Benton, Enos Fuller, Silas H. Mapes, Smith Mapes, Dyer Woodworth, Otis Barden, Jeremiah Jillette, John Knapp, James Springsted, William Gilbert, William Hilton, jr., William Hilton, David Riggs, Elisha Brown, Ichabod Buell, Samuel Buell, George Bennett, Cyrus Buell, David Riggs, Philip Riggs, George Wheeler, jr., M. Lawrence, Thomas Lee, jr., James McCust, Thomas Hathaway, Daniel S. Judd, Daniel Lazelere, Dennis Shaw, James Allen, Thomas Clark, James Beaumont, John Neil, James Brown, Ellis Pearce, Henry Mapes, Simeon Lee, William Cunningham, John Meeckelnane, John Bruce, Hezekiah Townsend, Matthew Cole, Reuben Riggs, Ezra Cole."

Referring to the names included in the foregoing list the reader will observe many who were among the pioneers of Benton, as now constituted, while not a few were dwellers in the district of Jerusalem outside the town proper, but who, for some cause, probably as heretofore stated, were desirous of having the separation made as the petition asked. But, notwithstanding the evident strength of the petition, its prayer was not granted by the court. However, four years later, in 1803, Jerusalem was made a separate town, and on the 12th of February, of the same year, under the name of Vernon, another township was created, including all that is now Benton, Milo, and Torrey. The name Vernon was

continued until 1808, when an act of the legislature changed the name to Snell, there having been erected previous to 1803 a town in Oneida County also named Vernon. For some reason the people of the town of Snell became dissatisfied with the name, and had recourse to the legislature with result in another change, this time to Benton; and so named in honor of Levi Benton, the first settler within the limits of the town as it now stands.

The first reduction in the extent of territory of Benton was made in 1818, when Milo was erected, and took from the mother township No. 7 of range first and all the land east thereof and west of Seneca Lake. The second and last curtailment of Benton's territory was made in 1851, by the erection of Torrey, for which both this town and Milo surrendered their lands, and the most desirable agricultural sections of them.

Township No. 8 of the first range, which includes the greater part of what is now Benton, is bounded north by Ontario County; west by Potter, No. 8, second range; south by Milo, No. 7, range one, and a part set off to Jerusalem; and east originally by the old pre-emption line. The land east of the line was included in Jerusalem first, and afterward followed the various town organizations that eventually became Benton. To correct an erroneous impression that exists in some minds, it may here be stated that the main road leading from the residence of Hon. Guy Shaw north to Bellona is nowhere between those points touched by the old or the new pre-emption line. The old line lies east of this road, and, as near as can be determined from maps in existence, passes along the short stretch of north and south road lying west of the residence of James McMaster. The new pre-emption line runs into the lake just north of Dresden, in Torrey.

The subject of this chapter is the town of Benton as at present constituted. Among the sub-divisions that form Yates County, Benton occupies a position of prominence, for, in point of agricultural productiveness it ranks first and foremost. This enviable condition is of course largely due to the exceedingly rich quality of soil that extends over nearly its entire surface. Topographically the lands of the town may be classed as level generally, with a gradually rolling surface affording an excellent natural drainage system. The lands of the town are

considerably higher than in the vicinity Penn Yan, and travel between the county seat and Benton Center is necessarily up a long hill. Bellona, on Cashong Creek, is in one of the most depressed localities of the town, but not so low, perhaps, as in the vicinity of Flat street. But nowhere in the entire township do there exist hills or vales of such height or depth as to embarrass or prevent cultivation in any form or character.

If any of the towns of the county can lay claim to possessing Indian history in connection with its early history, in that respect Benton's claim is of first importance. In the extreme northeast corner of the town, on the farm now owned by William W. Coe, the Senecas had built up a little village which had been commonly called "Cashong," but which General Sullivan, in his official report of his famous expedition in September, 1779, designated as "Gotheseunguean." Fowler, in his diary of early history, calls the name "Kashanquash." However, convenience and euphony have changed the name to Cashong, by which the stream in the locality is still designated. Here was a little village of a few cabins, but in the vicinity the Indians had growing crops and bearing orchards. At a later date than 1779 two traders, Dominick De Bartzch and Pierre Pondre, maintained a post for traffic with the natives. They, too, claimed the lands in the vicinity. But in this narrative these persons will not be considered or treated as having been the pioneer settlers of the town. In the "draught" of town lots in Benton, De Bartzch fell owner to No. 22.

*Pioneer Families of Benton.*—A history of Yates County published nearly a score of years ago devoted to Benton more than 200 of its pages, the greater part of which had particular reference to the old families of the town. In view of this fact, and in deference to a general request made upon the publishers of the present volume by a large and influential majority of men of the county, many of them descendants of pioneers, the local chapters of this work will contain less of biographical and geneological record than did its predecessor work. But at the same time an effort will be made to mention briefly as many of the pioneer families as can be recalled. It is not that the pioneers of Benton are not worthy of extended mention, but the fact that they have been so fully written in the history referred to would seem to preclude the necessity of again treating at length concerning them, and would appear



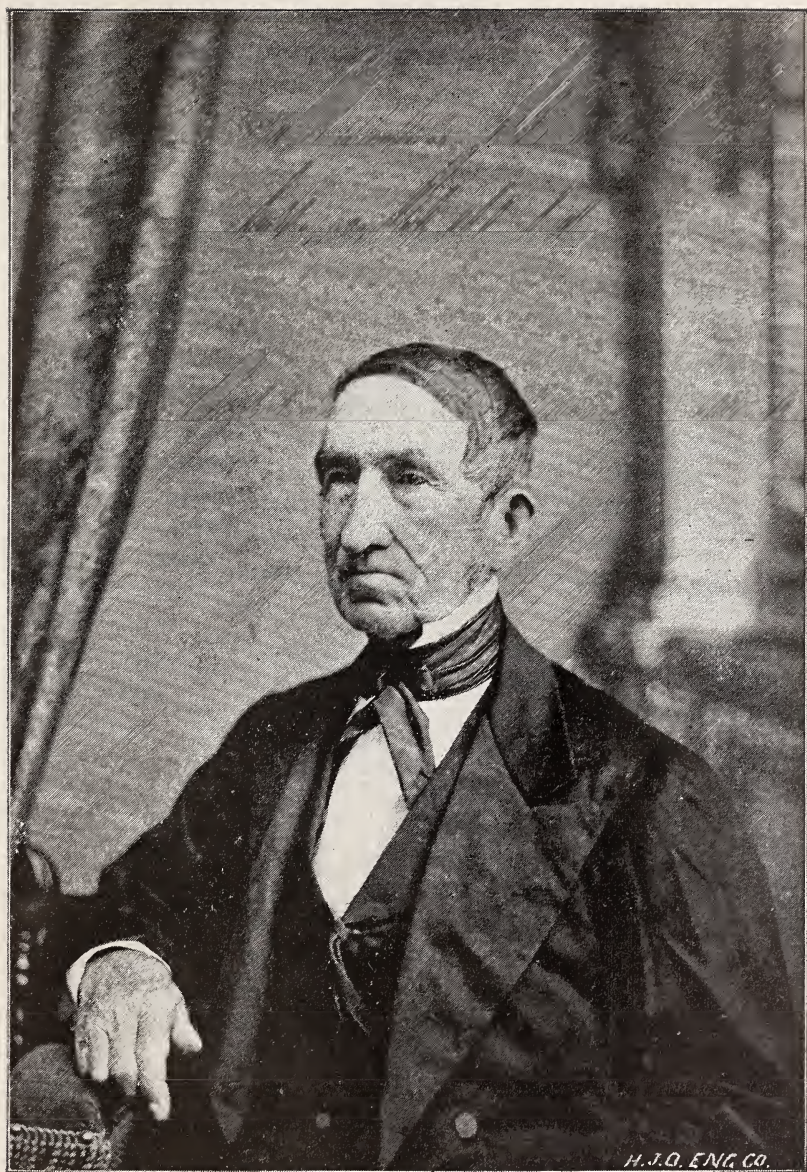
to make this volumn but a repetition of the former, and therefore lose much of its value and importance.

Common consent accords to Levi Benton the honor of having been the pioneer of Benton. In his honor the town received its permanent name. He was the cousin of Caleb Benton, who was one of the New York Genesee Land Company, the latter being the chief disturbing factor that had much to do with retarding the settlement and development of the Genesee Country, on account of the nefarious scheme of leasing all the Iroquois lands against the express will of the State of New York. Levi Benton, with his family, came and made a settlement on lot thirty-seven, during the year 1789. Mr. Benton was prominently connected with nearly every leading enterprise in the town; was frequently a public officer and one in whom the people had every confidence. His wife, whom he married in Canaan, Conn., was Molly or Mary Woodworth, and by whom he had nine children: Polly, Olive, Levi, Luther, Calvin, Joseph, Nancy, Hannah, and Ruby. In 1816 Levi Benton and his wife moved from the town and took up ther final abode in Indiana, where both died at an advanced age. The name Benton has no representatives in the town at the present time.

Major Benjamin Barton was the pioneer in the northeastern section of the town. He bought the 700 acre tract of Dominick DeBartzch and made his settlement there, on Cashong Creek, soon after Levi Benton's coming, probably during the same year. He was a surveyor, and had much to do with laying out early roads and running lot lines. He built, about 1796 or '97, a large frame house at Cashong, with the evident intention of maintaining it as a hotel, for it had that important adjunct of all taverns of the period—a spacious dancing hall. Also Major Barton was a public man, filling the office of sheriff of Ontario County from 1802 to 1806. In 1809 Major Barton moved from the town.

John Dye succeeded Major Barton in the ownership of the Cashong farm, so-called, and is said to have built a grist-mill on the creek as early as 1805. The saw-mill near the same site is believed to have been built by Thomas Gray, also a pioneer. Mr. Dye died in 1820, and was succeeded by Andrew Brum, who won fame, if not fortune, in having exhibited the first elephant in the region.

The most numerous, and perhaps the most prominent family now in



*Joseph Mathew Earle*





the locality of Cashong, are the descendants of Jephtha<sup>\*</sup> Earl, senior. Mr. Earl, in 1821, became owner of the mill property at Bellona, placing it in charge of his son Jesse. It afterward became the property of another son, Jephtha Earl, jr. The latter, born in 1806, still lives in the town, in an elegant house near Earl's Landing on Seneca Lake. He moved here from Bellona in 1830. Of the Earl family, only Jesse, Jephtha, jr., and Arthur, sons of Jephtha, senior, became residents in Benton. In 1829 Jephtha married Eliza Hutchinson, who bore him seven children. Arthur Earl was born in 1810; married Sybil Conklin and had nine children.

Otis Barden was at the head of one of the most respected pioneer families of Benton. He was a native of Massachusetts and descended from revolutionary stock. He made his "pitch" of land, as all New Englanders say, on lot fifty, while his brother Thomas located in the township north of Benton. This was in 1789. Otis married Elizabeth Parker, the daughter of James Parker of the Friend's settlement. Their children were Betsey, Sally, Charlotte, who married Aaron Dexter; Susan, who married George Carpenter; Otis, who married Cata Butler; James P., who married Charlotte Gage; Henry, a prominent physician who married Caroline Purdy; Ira R., who married Susan Hanley; William M., who married Olive Hanley; Eleanor C., who became the wife of Daniel Ryal, and Lois E., who married Henry H. Gage.

Thomas Barden, brother of Otis, married Olive, daughter of Caleb Benton, and had eight children: Thomas, Ezekiel C., Levi, Otis B., Olive, Isaac, Richard, and Polly or Mary.

Thomas Barden, father of Otis and Thomas above mentioned, with his wife and five of their children—Sylvanus, Milly, Eunice, Lois, and George—moved to Benton in 1799. George Barden, the last named of these children, married Dolly Witter and raised thirteen children, viz.: Dolly, Hannah, George R., Elizabeth, Sylvanus, James, Levi, Philo, Lucy A., Minerva, Mary J., Martin W., Tilson C.

In 1792 Ezra Cole and his family, formerly of Litchfield, Conn., but directly from Unadilla, N. Y., came to Benton and settled on lot 113, where the hamlet Benton Center now in part stands. Ezra Cole built a log house first, but afterward, in 1804, a large frame building which he opened as a tavern. Here he lived until his death, in 1821. The



children of Ezra Cole were Matthew, Delilah, Lois, Nathan P., Daniel A., Asa, Smith M., Sabra, and Ezra.

Asa Cole and Smith M. Cole, sons of Ezra, afterward became residents of the little village of Penn Yan, and each followed his fathers' example in that he became tavern keeper. Their location was at the corner of Main and Head streets, as now known. Both were active men in the affairs of the village and town, but Smith M. afterward moved to Flat street in Benton, and maintained a tavern stand where Charles B. Shaw now lives. Asa married, first, Sally Sprague, by whom he had two children; and second, Lydia Francis, by whom he had one child, Frank R. Cole, whose pleasant residence and large farm are located just north of the village limits. Of Asa Cole it may be said that he served during the war of 1812 as lieutenant in Captain Bogart's Geneva company. During his after life he was ever known to friends and neighbors as Major Cole.

Samuel Buel was the head of one of the pioneer families of Benton, and one of the contingent of former residents of Unadilla that came and settled near the Center in 1792. Samuel Buel was a native of Connecticut. He was a soldier during the last French and Indian war, and held a captain's commission during the Revolution, and served at Fort Edward in this State. At this place Cyrus Buel, son of Samuel, was captured by the British and held three years in captivity, in Canada. Being released he returned to his family. Samuel Buel married, first, Sarah Holmes, who bore him six children: Sarah, Samuel, Cyrus, Paulina, Betsey, and Ichabod. His second wife was Susan Morse, by whom he had eight children: Henry, Catharine, Anna, Hannah, Esther, Artemas, Mary, and Matilda. Samuel Buel, the pioneer, died in 1809.

Eliphalet Hull was another pioneer of 1792 in Benton, and likewise one of the Unadilla colony that during that year settled near Benton Center. Mr. Hull is remembered as having been prominently connected with early events; was the first school teacher in the town; the first Methodist class-leader in the region, and a teacher in singing of remarkable ability. His wife was Huldah Patchen, by whom he had eight children: Salmon, Hannah, Daniel, Sarah, Martha, Anna, Eliphalet, and Seth. Seth Hull, brother of Eliphalet, came to Benton in 1800. The surname Hull, descendants of these families, is not now known in the town.

George Wheeler was a settler in Benton in 1791. He was an extensive land owner, and as such possessed all now of Penn Yan village lying north of the outlet and west of Benham street with its continuation, Sheppard street. The wife of George Wheeler was Catherine Lyon, by whom he had eight children: Ephraim and Samuel, both of whom died in childhood, and were buried where the cemetery now is, east of the Center; Eleanor, George, jr., Nathan, Susan, Margaret, and Zachariah. George Wheeler, the pioneer, died in 1824, and his wife in 1827.

Philip Riggs, widower, with a family of children settled near the center, on lot 116, in 1795. The children were David, Benjamin, Reuben, John, Mary, Hannah, Anna, Betsey, and Susan. It is understood that the surname Riggs has no representative in Benton at this time.

In the south part of Benton, and in the extreme northern part of the present village of Penn Yan, Robert Chissom was the pioneer settler. The lands on which he located were a part of the purchase of George Wheeler, whose daughter Mr. Chissom had married. His log house stood about where is now the Ayers residence, and was opened by him as a hotel. Mr. Chissom died in 1806. His children were Catharine, Peter, Ephraim, Hannah, and George.

Moses Chissom, brother of Robert, located in Benton in 1794. He married Mary, daughter of Philemon Baldwin, by whom he had eleven children.

Philemon Baldwin was one of the odd yet valuable characters of the town during the days of its infancy. His occupation was that of a farmer and miller. It is said that Philemon Baldwin suggested the name by which the county seat should be called and known—Pang Yang,—changed by common consent to Penn Yan. Mr. Baldwin's immediate descendants were Asa, Philemon H., Amos, Caleb, Rune, George, Mary, Sally Ann, Elizabeth, and Esther.

Elisha Woodworth became a settler in Benton in 1798, on lot 41, the premises now in part owned by John Merrifield. In Mr. Woodworth's family were these children: Erastus B., Elisha, Polly, Sally, Abner, Amy, Ariel, Anna and Amelia. Polly Woodworth married Dr. Calvin Fargo, an early physician of Benton, to whom there were born these

children : Hiram S., Russell R., Julia, Elizabeth, Abigail R., John C., and Elisha W. Abigail Reed Fargo, one of these children, married William Hoyt Gage, son of Reuben Gage.

Moses Gage, his wife Sarah, and his children, Mariam, Buckbee, Reuben, Aaron and Isaac D., came from Dutchess County and settled in this town in the year 1801. Here Moses died in 1812, and his wife in 1813. William Hoyt Gage, now residing on Flat street, is the son of Reuben Gage by his marriage with Azuba Hoyt. The other children of that union were Jesse, Horace, Martha, Aaron, and Reuben P. William H. was the youngest child but one. The surname Gage, representatives and descendants of pioneer Moses Gage, are numerous in Benton at this time, and are among the most enterprising and public spirited residents thereof.

In 1792 Samuel Jayne came to the Genesee Country, and in 1797 became the owner of a farm on lot 8, where his son Samuel now resides, 1891. His wife was Eleanor VanZile, by whom he had three children, Samuel, Henry and William.

John Coleman was born August 30, 1770. His wife, Christiana Rhine, whom he married May 24, 1795, was born August 18, 1771. In 1798 John Coleman bought fifty acres of land at Bellona, and brought his family to the place the next year. The wife and children journeyed down Seneca Lake on a raft, landing at Earls, while the husband came overland with his cattle and other stock. The children of John and Christiana Coleman were John, born March 4, 1796; Margaret, born May 24, 1797, married William Taylor and died in Benton; Henry R., born October 15, 1800, died May 3, 1880; Elizabeth, born November 4, 1803, married William Bamborough; Daniel, born May 27, 1806, killed by accident while on wedding tour; Sally, born October 14, 1808; Charles, born April 30, 1811, and lived and died in Benton, December 23, 1883. Charles Coleman, the youngest son of John, married Mary Ann Seely. Their children were George C, who died from wounds received in the army; Charles Edward, now in Nebraska; and William Henry, who owns and occupies the old home farm of his father, about a mile west from Bellona. Charles Coleman was six times elected justice of the peace in Benton.

Truman Spencer was the third pioneer settler in Benton. He came

during the year 1788, and made a purchase from Levi Benton of land on lot 8, in the locality afterward known as Spencer's Corners. In 1789 James Pattison and his wife, and their daughter Lois (Pattison) Spencer, wife of our pioneer, came to the location and occupied the cabin which Truman Spencer had previously built. James Pattison died in 1792 and his wife in 1821. David Spencer was the first child born to Truman and Lois Spencer, and his birth, September 8, 1790, was the first event of the kind in the town. The other children born to them were Nancy, David P., Laura, Olive and James. By reason of his services in the militia organizations, Mr. Spencer became known as captain. As the civil list will show, Capt. Spencer was one of the presidential electors in 1832. His wife died in 1830, after which he married Martha, widow of George Wheeler. Truman Spencer died in April, 1840. From this old pioneer has descended a good number of active, energetic citizens of Yates County.

Captain Lawrence Townsend, a soldier of the Revolution, made a purchase of land in Benton in 1790, and moved to the locality during the winter following. His place, which was a tavern, and he its landlord, was on the continuation of Head street east of and not far from the residence of Thomas Gristock. The children of Lawrence Townsend were John, Anna, Henry, Phebe, Jarius and Abraham.

Aaron Remer was the son of John Remer, a pioneer of what is now Torrey, having settled there in 1800. Aaron was born in New Jersey, and on coming to Torrey located at or near Lawrence's Mills on the outlet, in which he became interested. Leaving there he settled where Thomas Gristock now lives. His wife, to whom he was married in 1804, was Phebe Townsend. He died in 1841, and his wife died in 1867. Their children were Lawrence T., Ann, Phebe, Mary, Jane, William T., and Sarah. Aaron Remer was known as captain, from the fact that he organized a cavalry company in Benton during the war of 1812-'15. The company was in active service for about three months. Captain Remer was in all respects the representative and worthy citizen. He was one of the members of Assembly from Ontario at the time of the erection of Yates County, and was an active agent in bringing about its separation from the mother county. He was the first member of Assembly from Yates, in 1823. In 1831 and 1832 he again represented this county.



Stephen Whitaker was the first settler in the locality of lot No. 20 in Torrey, he having come to the town in 1799, and there he resided until his death in 1827. He came to the Genesee Country from New Jersey. Stephen Whitaker was a man highly respected in Benton; he was one of the founders, and the chief one, too, of the first Presbyterian church and society in the town, and was one of its most devoted, conscientious and worthy members. In town affairs he was frequently called upon to fill offices of trust. Mr. Whitaker was married four times; first in 1772, to Susannah White, by whom he had one child; second, in 1779, to Ruth Conklin, who bore him eight children; third, to Mary Cross, in 1793; and fourth to Agnes, the widow of Daniel Potter. The children of Stephen Whitaker by his second marriage were Jonathan, Mary, Deborah, Stephen, Ruth, Isaac, Phebe, and Ann. Jonathan, eldest child of Stephen, was born in 1780; married in 1806, Mary Bailey. Their children were Squier B., Stephen M., Alexander F., William H., Ephraim M., Ruth Ann, Marietta, and George W. Squier B. Whitaker was thrice married; first to Mercy Amsbury, second to Lydia C. Amsbury, and third to Mary L. Olmsted. James S. Whitaker, of Penn Yan, is the son of Squier B. Whitaker by his marriage with Lydia C. Amsbury. William Harlow Whitaker was born August 16, 1813, and died July 29, 1881; married Ann Eliza McDowell, November 30, 1837. Their children were William H., Jonathan, Augustus, Marietta, Frank, Aurelia, Kate L. and Charles F.

Enos Tubbs, an old revolutionary soldier, settled on lot 31 in 1788 or 1789. He was twice married, having no children by his first wife, and eight by his second.

The name Havens stands for pioneership in Benton, the representatives coming to the town in 1810 and the years following. The family is numerous in the town to-day.

Benjamin Dean came to the county in 1798, locating first near Seneca Lake, but in 1804 settling in Benton, on lot 74. He had several sons who preceded him to this region.

Perley Dean was a pioneer on what became known as Flat street, on lot 39. He came here in 1793.

Elisha, Daniel and Martin Brown, natives of Connecticut, but directly from Vermont, located on lot 31 during the year 1793. Later on lot 78, just west of Benton Center.

David and Experience (Pierce) Peckins were natives of Massachusetts and came to Jerusalem in 1810. Their children were Hannah, Elipha, David, Lydia, James, Alexander, Sabra, Elisha, Martha, George, and Samuel. Elisha Peckins remained in this county and lived for many years in Benton. His wife was Martha Raymond, by whom he had four children: Myron, Arabella, Charles R., and Jane. Myron Peckins married Sarah J. Taylor, daughter of Alva Taylor of Benton, and now resides in Penn Yan. Charles R. Peckins married Eleanor Briggs, daughter of Seth B. Briggs, an old and respected resident of Benton. Further mention of Myron and Charles Peckins will be found elsewhere in this volume.

One of the most prominent families in the southwest part of Benton was that of which James Taylor was the highly respected head. Their settlement was made in 1821, on lot 112. They were not pioneers, but were a family worthy of at least passing mention in this chapter. On the same lot Briggs Belknap settled in 1819. In the same general locality, on lot 87, Noah Davis settled in 1813, and his brother, Thomas Davis, in 1814. They were pioneers in that locality.

James Smith and family, from Orange County, settled south of Benton Center in 1812. Their children were Job, Julia Ann, Mary, Sophia H., Emily T., and Susan T. Sophia H. Smith became the wife of Eli Sheldon.

The Guthrie family, many representatives of which still reside in the county, settled in Benton in 1819.

The Crozier family, of which Adam Crozier was the head, settled in the town in 1821.

But the families whose names and lives have been recorded on the preceding pages did not constitute the entire contingent of persons entitled to mention in connection with the early history of Benton. The families named were perhaps the leading ones, possibly the most prolific, and more closely identified with the history of the town, past and present, than were others of whom briefer mention was made. In a town like Benton, where settlement commenced in 1788 and concluded only when all its lands were taken up and improved, it is difficult to determine just where pioneership actually ceases. But that the record may be made as complete and reliable as possible, it is proposed to devote

some further space to a mention of the names of some others of early settlers in the town, but of whom there cannot be made any extended record.

The Angus family, of whom Walter Angus was the pioneer head, settled in the town in 1800. A large number of his descendants are still residents in Benton, living mainly on the shores of Seneca Lake.

In the north part of the town there were resident prior to 1804, either as individuals or heads of families, Joseph Corey, Joseph Ritchie, Dyer, Rilish and Artemas Woodworth, Lyman and Enos Tubbs, Timothy Goff, Elisha Smith, Elihu White, Silas H. Mapes, James Springsted, Jesse Lamoreaux, Abram Florence, Stephen Wilcox, Joseph Smith, Richard Wood, Isaac Horton, James Davison, and others, perhaps, whose names at this time cannot be recalled.

Dr. John L. Cleveland, a former resident of the county, and a medical practitioner of some importance, became a citizen of Benton, living at the Center in 1818.

Russell Youngs and his wife, Anna (Buell) Youngs, settled in Benton in 1801. Their children were Alma, Polly, Maria, Milan, Oliver and Fanny. The youngest child, Fanny, became the wife of Samuel H. Chapman. He is remembered as having been a school-teacher of long experience, and court crier for more than thirty years. In politics Mr. Chapman was a Whig, then a Republican, but during his later life he was interested in the cause of prohibition. The children of Samuel H. and Fanny Chapman were Charles E., who died in hospital during the war; Mary Jane, now at home; Henry O., who died in 1849; Alson, who died in 1889; Russel, who is a prominent wagon-maker at the Center; Eugene, who lives in Torrey, and Fred, who manages the home farm. Samuel H. Chapman died April 16, 1885.

William Hilton settled on lot 56 in 1794. His wife, Ruth, died in 1826, and he in 1828; Robert Patterson settled on lot 43 in 1798 or 1799; the Weed family, who are still numerous in the county, settled on Flat street in 1808; Ephraim Kidder located in the town in 1800; the wife of John McMaster, the progenitor of a large family, many of whose descendants still live in the town, located in Benton in 1810; the McFarrens came to the county in 1806; Jared Patchen settled on lot 70 in 1807; John Powell, a former blacksmith in Penn Yan, made his

settlement in 1816; the Lamport family came to Benton in 1812; Abel Peek's family settled in 1813; the Randall family came in 1812; the Ketchum family were early settlers in Flat street; the children of Ebenezer Boyd, Robert, Lewis, and Phebe, settled in Benton in 1814; Jacob Winants was a settler in Benton in 1800, and left a large family, five of them being residents of the town at an early day.

The western part of Benton was originally heavily timbered, and was known as the West Woods. In this locality settlement did not commence as early as in the eastern sections, and it was not until 1816 or thereabouts that improvements were made here. Among the more prominent of the first families in this region of the town were the Rectors, Cranks, Wheelers, Simmonses, Fingers, Hooses, Carrolls, Moons, Millers, and others, perhaps, whose names are lost by time.

Many of the families whose names have been mentioned on preceding pages have descendants still numbered among the families of the town to-day, while there were others, pioneers perhaps, who lived here for a time and then moved to some other locality. Looking over the lists of residents of Benton at the present time the fact will appear that many families who were not pioneers have substantial descendants now in the town, and they, too, among the most thrifty and forehanded of its people. Elsewhere in this work will be found some brief mention of persons and families who have been identified with the development and prosperity of Benton during the last fifty and less of years.

It has been the custom of all past historical writers to furnish at least a partial list of town officers in connection with town chapters; and it appears to be conceded generally that the office of supervisor is as representative a position as can be selected from among township officers of which to furnish a succession. Benton was brought into existence in 1803, but the records of the town during the first seven years of its history, whether under the names of Vernon, Snell, or Benton, do not appear to be in existence. From all that can be learned Samuel Lawrence was supervisor during 1808 and 1809, and was succeeded by Elijah Spencer in 1810. Of course the reader will understand that names of persons may be found in the following succession of supervisors of Benton who were residents of township 7, or Milo; but none such will appear after 1818. The same may also be said of Torrey, which was not made a separate town until 1851.



*Supervisors of Benton.*—Samuel Lawrence, 1808-09; Elijah Spencer, 1810-14, 1817-19; Joshua Lee, 1815-16; Meridith Mallory, 1820; Abner Woodworth, 1820-21, 1831-32; Jonathan Whitaker, 1823, 1825, 1829; John L. Cleveland, 1824; Elijah Spencer, 1826-28; Aaron Remer, 1830; Anthony Gage, 1833; Samuel G. Gage, 1834-35, 1838-42; Heman Chapman, 1836-37; Abner Woodworth, 1843; Aaron Edmonds, 1844; Hatley N. Dox, 1845-47; James Simmons, 1848; Alfred Baldwin, 1849; William S. Hudson, 1850; Edward R. Briggs, 1851; Henry Hicks, 1852; William Taylor, 1853; Isaac N. Gage, 1854; George W. Spencer, 1855; William T. Remer, 1856; George A. Shepard, 1857; John Merrifield, 1858-59, 1865-67; Samuel Allen, 1860; Homer Mariner, 1861-62; Caleb Hazen, 1863-64; Samuel Jayne, 1868; Henry C. Collin, 1869-70; Wemple H. Crane, 1871; Samuel B. Gage, 1872-73; Mason L. Baldwin, 1874-75; George W. Taylor, 1876-77; Myron Peckins, 1878-79; Ebenezer Scofield, 1880-81; Bradley T. Mallory, 1882-83; Horace Underwood, 1884-85; James M. Lown, 1886-87; Frank Coe, 1888-89; James B. McAlpine, 1890-91.

*Justices of the Peace.*—Under an amendment to the constitution of 1821, passed in 1826, justices became elective and not appointive offices; but in Benton there appears no record showing the election of any justice prior to 1830. From that time the justices, with date of election of each, has been as follows: Abner Woodworth, 1830-34; Samuel C. Lyon, 1831, 1835; John A. McLean, 1832, 1836, 1847; Jesse T. Gage, 1833, 1837, 1841, 1853; Edward Young, 1838; Samuel G. Gage, 1839, 1847, 1851; Robert P. Buell, 1842, 1846, 1850; Levi Patchen, 1843; James Young, 1843; Alpheus Veasie, 1844; Josiah S. Carr, 1848; Charles Coleman, 1849, 1857, 1861, 1865, 1869, 1873; George B. Stanton, 1852; William Comstock, 1854, 1858, 1862; William S. Hudson, 1855; James Durham, 1856, 1860; Martin Brown, jr., 1859, 1863; Edwin Lamport, 1862, 1864; Thomas H. Locke, 1866, 1870, 1874, 1878; Henry R. Taylor, 1867, 1871; Daniel Millspaugh, 1872, 1876; Myron Peckins, 1876; William Best, 1879; Walter W. Becker, 1880, 1884; Rowland S. Manley, 1881; Charles R. Peckins, 1882, 1886, 1890; George B. Barden, 1883, 1887; William H. Coleman, 1885; Emmet C. Payne, 1888; Ashley W. Barden, 1889.

*Villages and Hamlets.*—That part of the incorporated village of Penn

Yan which lies north of Head street forms a part of the town of Benton; and the electors therein have a voice and ballot in the election of town officers of Benton, and village officers of Penn Yan. But the voters of Benton outside the village have no voice in the election of municipal officers; therefore any extended reference to the village as a part of the township is not appropriate to this chapter.

Outside of Penn Yan the principal central point for trade and business in Benton is the little hamlet called Bellona, situate on Cashong Creek, in the northeast part of the town. From the time of the founding of the village about 1810, until the present time, the population has at no time exceeded 300 souls; but, in a way, Bellona has been and is an important point. Its business interests have been comprised in the saw and grist-mills, the indispensable tavern, and two or three stores. Bellona was made a mail station in 1813, with Martin Gage as postmaster. He held office until 1839, and was then succeeded by Dr. Anthony Gage. The stone mill at Bellona was built about or soon after 1835.

Benton Center is the name of a little village having no corporate organization, situate very near the middle of township No. 8 as originally laid out and surveyed. It is distant from the county seat about three and one-half miles, on the main thoroughfare of travel north from Penn Yan, and at the intersection of the road just mentioned with the only east and west road that leads directly and entirely across the town. The proximity of the Center to Penn Yan precludes the possibility of its ever becoming a trading point of importance. Having no natural water-power, it is not of value as a manufacturing locality. The first settlement in Benton was made east of and near the Center by Levi Benton, while the lots Nos. 113, 114, 115, and 116, that contribute lands to the hamlet proper, were themselves occupied at an early day. Still the village had no postoffice until 1825, when Joel Ross was appointed postmaster. David Buell succeeded him, since whose time John A. Haight, Isaac N. Gage, Asahel Savage, Myron Cole, Edwin Lamport, and Oliver C. Guthrie have held the same office. Benton Center has two churches and church societies, each of which is mentioned on succeeding pages of this chapter.

Ferguson's Corners is the lesser in importance of the three hamlets

of the town. Its situation is in the extreme northwestern section of Benton, and its size is scarcely greater than the average of corners or cross roads. A postoffice was established here in 1842, but discontinued in 1865.

*Church History of Benton* —It has been said, and with much show of truth, that Benton is the mother of churches in Yates County. The only locality that had a church prior to Benton was that occupied by the Friends, and theirs was but a primitive log building. Moreover, the Friends were a sect that colonized in the region, worshiping in peculiar form and manner, not recognized by the established churches or religious denominations then extant, and one that proved not to be founded upon substantial basis and without perpetuity.

The Methodist Church in Benton had its inception in the missionary preachings held as early as the year 1792 in Levi Benton's barn, at which time and period Ezra Cole was a local preacher and organizer. In 1793 he organized a Methodist class, among the members of which were himself and his wife, Matthew Cole, Lois Cole, Delila Cole, Eliphalet Hull and wife, George Wheeler, jr., and wife, and Mrs. Sarah Buell. Eliphalet Hull was the first class leader; George Wheeler the second. At that time Benton was in the Seneca Lake circuit, and so remained until 1806. A Genesee conference was formed in 1809, and a Crooked Lake circuit in 1814. The first meeting-house of the society was erected in 1807, on the farm now of M. L. Baldwin, about a mile south of Benton Center. Except that of the Friends, this was the first meeting-house erected in what is Yates County. George Wheeler, jr., furnished the land for the building.

The first twenty years witnessed increasing strength in the class and society, but misfortunes and some secessions worked injuriously until about 1826, when a revival re-established its strength. In 1828 the Benton circuit was formed, including the several classes in the town, with result in the erection of a house of worship west of the Center at Havens Corners. Five years later a parsonage was built near the church. The Center did not become a station until 1841, and for all prior time such services as were held were conducted either by local preachers or circuit riders. The church at the Center was built in 1855, and substantially remodeled and repaired in 1859.

The Methodist Church at Bellona is but a branch or offshoot from the mother society of the town. The first services were held in 1805 in the log school house, and in 1809 such interest had come to be shown that a regular place for preaching was established. The class at Bellona was formed the same year, among its members being Benjamin Bidlack, Henry Oxtoby and wife, Jacob Wood and wife, and John Davis and wife. In 1810 a meeting-house was commenced and enclosed during the first year, but it was not until 1820 that it was fully completed. It stood on the hill just north of the village.

In 1841, under the direction of H. R. Coleman, Summers Banks, J. W. Wood, George Waite, and Charles Coleman, as building committee, the new centrally located church edifice, 36 x 56 feet in size, with steeple and bell was erected. Two years later, in 1843, Bellona was made a separate charge, and Seth Mattison was its first preacher. In 1866 extensive repairs were made to the church edifice, making it when completed an attractive and commodious house of worship. The committee in charge of the work were Charles Coleman, Summers Banks, George H. Banks, J. H. Huie, C. Lazenby and George Brooks.

The Baptist Church and society of Benton Center, and in fact of the town, had their origin in the meetings and services that are said to have begun as early as 1797, although there exists no tangible proof to show that any organization took place prior to 1800, when Elder John Goff was appointed and ordained to the charge of the society. David Southerland and Moses Finch were elected deacons. At that time it was known as the Vernon Church. Elder Goff was pastor of the church for thirty-six years, and is remembered particularly on account of the great length of his discourses at regular church meetings, funerals and wedding celebrations. In 1836 he emigrated to Michigan.

The first church edifice of this society was erected in 1818, and stood, not at the Center, but on the road next east and leading to the north. At that time there were a number of Universalists in the town, and they contributed toward the fund with which the church was built. Occasionally Universalist services were held in the church. In 1848 the commodious church edifice at the Center was erected. The trustees, Samuel G. Gage, George R. Barden, James Southerland, John Church, and Charles Gilbert acted as building committee. The parsonage property was purchased in 1856, costing \$1,200.



Elder Goff began his pastorate in 1800 and served thirty-six years. Next, after a vacancy of two years, Elias Buck was called, remaining two years. William H. Delano came in 1840 and served four years. John W. Wiggins was called in 1845, and Daniel Litchfield in 1847, the latter serving four years. Elder Almon C. Mallory was ordained in 1851, and continued in charge of the church twenty-four years. Subsequent to the pastorate of Mr. Mallory the elders in charge have been T. S. Hill, Albert Martin, V. P. Mather and S. D. Works.

Among the earlier members of the Baptist Church at Benton Center can be recalled the names of Samuel Buell, Moses Finch, David Southerland, David Riggs, William Gilbert, Benjamin Fowle, Francis Dean, Simon Southerland, Smith Mapes, Isaac Lain, Elisha Benedict, Ephraim Kidder, Isaac Whitney, Buckbee Gage, Benjamin Dean, Samuel Raymond, Robert Watson, Jonathan and Jesse Brown, Stephen Wilkins, David Kidder, David Holmes, David Trimmer, John L. Swarthout, Stephen Coe, Charles and Joel Gillette, James Southerland, Heman Chapman, Jacob Watson, Henry Nutt.

The Presbyterian Church of Benton, the mother of several other societies of that denomination in the county, was organized through the efforts and influence of pioneer Stephen Whitaker. He was a Presbyterian and laid the foundation of the society in the prayer and conversation meetings held at his own house as early as the year 1802. On the 7th of November, 1809, Rev. John Lindsley organized a society at a meeting held at Mr. Whitaker's house. The original members were Stephen and Mary Whitaker, John and Susannah Armstrong, John and Sarah Hall, George and Elizabeth Armstrong, John and Sarah McLean, Solomon Couch, William Read, Rebecca Boyd, Terry Owen and wife, and William Roy. The first ordained elders were Stephen Whitaker, John Hall and Solomon Couch. The society had no regular pastor until 1820, when on September 13th Rev. Richard Williams was installed.

In 1816 the full organization of this church was effected, and the name "The First Presbyterian Congregation of the Town of Benton," was adopted. The first church edifice of the society was erected in 1821 on the southwest corner of lot No. 12. Here services were held until January, 1839, and then transferred to the church then recently

acquired at Bellona. Here they have since been continued, but a good proportion of the old membership and their descendants became united with the church at Penn Yan. In fact it was considered that there was a virtual removal of the old church to the county seat.

The church building occupied by the Benton Presbyterian Society on its removal or transfer to Bellona village was the same formerly occupied by the society of the Dutch Reformed Church. The latter had its organization in 1833, and the church edifice was built the same year at the individual expense of John Pembroke and Jacob Meserole; but the sale of pews nearly made good the amount expended by them. The society continued only about six years, and the building was sold in 1839 to the Presbyterian Church and society. The latter absorbed the former congregation.

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## CHAPTER XXII.

### HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF STARKEY.<sup>1</sup>

THE town of Starkey is situated in the southeast corner of Yates County, and is bounded on the north by the town of Milo, east by Seneca Lake, south by the town of Reading, Schuyler County, and west by the towns of Barrington and Reading. Yates County was organized in the year 1823. The town of Starkey was not included in the organization until the next year, 1824.

Starkey was originally a part of the old town of Frederickstown, afterward Reading. The name of Frederickstown was changed to Wayne, in honor of General Anthony Wayne, April 6, 1808. Reading was founded in 1808 and included the town of Starkey, which was organized in 1824 by act of legislature.

The early history of the town of Starkey is rather obscure. The pioneers have passed away, and their descendants have scattered so that but few if any remain. So far as can be ascertained, the earliest at-

<sup>1</sup>By Charles H. Martin.

tempt at settlement was made by Elnathan, jr., and Benj. Botsford, and a brother-in-law, Achilles Comstock. They bought 400 acres of Charles Williamson, not surveyed, built a log house and made a large clearing in 1798. Their property was destroyed by a forest fire, and a survey deprived them of half of their land. They became discouraged and abandoned their claim and returned to the Friends' settlement in Jerusalem, whence they came. There is a tradition that the first permanent inhabitant was William Eddy. The east side of Seneca Lake was the route of General Sullivan in his expedition against the Indians, and was the first to be settled by the whites. The dwellers on the east side had noticed for some time a column of smoke ascending from a particular place on the west side. Their curiosity was excited, and a party was formed to investigate. On a bright Sunday morning the expedition paddled their canoes across to the Seneca landing, north of what is now Glenora. After landing the familiar sound of a bell was heard. Following the sound it led them to a cow; and following the cow she led them to the cabin of William Eddy, the first settler of Eddytown, and as believed, the first of Starkey.

William Eddy settled on the farm south of Eddytown now owned by Dennis W. Disbrow, where he remained several years. Later in life he became possessed with the delusion that he had a fortune waiting for him in his native country. He sold his property and returned to Ireland to find, like many other fortune hunters, that his fortune was but a myth. He failed to find a person that had ever known or heard of him. He ended his life in an alms house and died a pauper.

Assuming William Eddy to have been the first permanent white settler, we find the next in order was a colony from Sandgate, Vermont, who located in and around Eddytown, in the eastern part of the town of Starkey. Among the number were the three brothers, Mathew Royce, Simeon Royce, Reuben Royce, Abner Hurd and his three sons, Timothy Hurd, Aaron Hurd, and Ransom Hurd, all in 1802. Andrew Booth came later, 1811, and was from the same locality as was Moses Hurd, who came in about the same time of the first colony and settled near Rock stream, and gave the early name of Hurd's Corners to that place. New Jersey furnished a large quota. Among the number was David Hay, 1804; Andrew Raplee, 1806; Teval Swarts, 1807; Joseph C.

Lewis, David Shannon, Stephen Reeder, Joshua Tuthill, James Sprouls, and Hiram Titsworth, who located in different parts of the town, mostly north of Dundee.

Richard Lanning and his three sons came from Wilksbarre in 1802. George Plummer came from the same place in 1807, and located on the hill between Dundee and Eddytown. John Starkey and David Semans were originally from Maryland, but later from Seneca County. Peter Wallace, John O. Cook, Reuben Thomas, Gideon Thomas, Thomas Rozell, and Col. Elisha Ward settled the southwest part of the town.

The mention of Col. Elisha Ward's name recalls the memory of a horrible tragedy with which the family was sadly connected. Colonel Ward lived in the extreme south part of the town on the county line. He was a well-to-do farmer and lived in better style than his neighbors. The family consisted of the parents and an infant child. There was boarding with them a man named Baldwin, affected slightly with insanity, but never known to be violent or dangerous. He became apparently very fond of the child, and the baby became equally fond of him. Baldwin would quiet the child when the mother failed. On a certain day the child was unusually fretful. The mother gave the child to Baldwin who said he could "still" it. He took it out of doors, laid it on the stump of a tree, and siezing an axe, severed its head from the body. Turning to the mother he said, "the child is stilled." The mother was frantic. She caught the headless body of her child and for a long time refused to relinquish it. Baldwin was afterward cured of his malady and became an able lawyer.

The early settlement of the town appears to have been rapid. The fertility of the soil, the beauty of the scenery, the low price of the land, the easy terms of payment, the kindness and lenity of the land office agents in extending the time of payment in case of sickness or failure of crops, were inducements that favored the rapid development of the county and attracted a very desirable class of settlers.

The land was originally covered with dense forests. That of the eastern portion, sloping towards the Seneca Lake, was timbered in part with fine specimens of oak, maple, black walnut, hickory, red cedar, and other varieties, and in the western portion (the valley of Big Stream) pines of magnificent growth were interspersed with other



kinds, all of which would have been of great value if retained until a later period, but was then an incumbrance to be removed in the easiest manner. The manner then employed was to chop the trees in lengths of fourteen to sixteen feet, "log" them into heaps and burn them. What would have been worth millions of dollars if kept until later have been thus destroyed.

It is doubtful whether the town of Starkey, after nearly one hundred years of careful cultivation and improvement, is of any more value than it would be could it be restored to the condition it was when abandoned by the Indians.

The principal water course of the town is Big Stream. This stream enters the town on its western boundary, and flowing in a southeasterly direction through the entire breadth of the town, finally discharges its waters over a precipice of more than 100 feet into Seneca Lake, forming a beautiful waterfall. Big Stream, in those early days of which we write, and later, was a splendid water-power, and furnished power for fifteen saw-mills, four fulling-mills, (*i. e.*, mills where wool was carded and cloth was dressed,) two woolen factories, and five grist or flouring-mills. The mill privilege in West Dundee alone furnished power for three saw-mills, one grist-mill, a fulling-mill and tannery. Now in a drouth there is hardly water enough to run a steam engine. The shrinkage of water in the streams is without doubt due to the destruction of the forests. There are now but two saw-mills and two grist or flouring-mills on the stream. The only grist and flouring-mill in the town in running order is the Pecha mill at Glenora. The mill was built by James Barkly of Geneva, N. Y., in the year 1837. Larmon G. Townsend soon after its completion became partner and afterward owner. The original cost of the mill was \$16,000. It was sold at auction in the year 1864, and bid off by H. G. Stafford for \$1,030. Mr. Stafford sold it for \$5,000, after putting on repairs costing \$1,500. The present owners have added many new improvements. The Pechas, father and son, are English, and are practical millers, and thoroughly understand their business. The mill has always been in good repute and is a great convenience to the surrounding country. The old Martin stone mill, still remaining, has been abandoned, and of the remaining four mentioned three were destroyed by fire and the fourth was removed. Just across the town

line in Barrington the late Clinton Raplee built a grist and saw-mill, and his sons have added a large basket factory.

Rock Stream, much smaller than the above, crosses the entire breadth of the town from west to east and empties into Seneca Lake at Rock Stream Point.

The town of Starkey has an excellent soil well adapted to the cultivation of all kinds of grain, vegetables and fruit. The soil is various, including sand, clay and loam. The cultivation of fruit has become one of the leading (if not the leading) industries of the town. Large vineyards have been established along the shores of the Seneca Lake, and inland for four or five miles. The acres devoted to grapes and other fruits can be estimated by thousands. Other fruits have not been neglected. Apples, pears, plums and peaches are raised in abundance, and the raising and evaporating of raspberries has assumed large proportions. Strawberries, black-berries, raspberries, as well as the other fruits mentioned above, are shipped in large quantities in their season. The fruit crop is the main reliance of many families for support, and the freighting is a goodly source of profit to the railroads.

At the first town meeting the contest centered on the office of supervisor. The nominees were John Starkey and Isaac Lanning. The election was hotly contested. Mr. Starkey was the successful candidate. The next year the same candidates were nominated and Mr. Lanning was elected and held the office for several terms. The Lannings were a conspicuous family in the early history of the town. The father, Richard Lanning, was the first justice of the peace appointed by the governor, and was the first elected by the people. Isaac was one of the leading politicians of the town. In later years he was postmaster for several terms. Early in the anti-slavery agitation he became a rigid abolitionist. His house was one of the stations of the "Underground Railroad," and many a poor slave was helped by him on his way to freedom.

Richard Lanning, James Watson and John Starkey were justices of the peace by appointment of the governor when the town was erected. Richard Lanning held the office for several terms. Isaac Lanning carried on a large business in blacksmithing for many years in Eddytown.

Starkey has five postoffices, Dundee, Starkey, Eddytown, Glenora

and Rock Stream. Caleb Fulkerson and Andrew Harrison kept inns in 1808, the first in the town. John Sears built the first grist-mill. It was located east of Eddytown on lands formerly owned by General Hurd, now by Mrs. Youngs. Mr. Sears found the stones used in the mill in a ravine on the same premises, and picked and fashioned them into form himself. So far as known John Starkey built the second grist-mill in what is now Dundee.

The early merchants of Eddytown were Henry Smith, James Huntington, Benjamin Cheever, John Bogart, Isaac P. Seymour, King & Noyes, Harvey G. Stafford, and George W. Summers.

Col. Stafford was for many years the leading merchant of the town. He came to Eddytown in 1822 and engaged with Benjamin Cheever as clerk, and in 1827 became partner, and subsequently purchased the business. He removed to Dundee in 1846, and was partner in the firm of Stafford, Martin & Co. After that partnership was dissolved he engaged in banking and other business. He was postmaster under Fillmore's administration. He lived to the great age of eighty-eight, and died November 10, 1891.

The village of Dundee occupies the space of three-fourth of a mile north and south, and one and one-half miles east and west. It has the old and new pre-emption lines for its eastern and western boundaries. The village is located in one of the most beautiful of the many beautiful valleys of the State. It occupies a central position in the town of Starkey, and is the largest village in the township, and the second in the population in the county. The population according to the last census was a trifle over 1,200. Dundee was incorporated in 1848. Of the 250 voters within the village limits when it was incorporated only four are residents now, and most of the others have passed into another state of existence. The four remaining are Hon. J. T. Andrews, V. Oldfield, C. H. Martin, and Andrew Harpending, all well advanced in years.

The first settlers where Dundee now stands were Isaac Stark, Anson Stark, William Durland, Hendrick Houghtaling, Elias Fitzwater, Jonathan Botsford, John Walton, Benjamin Potter, Isaac Houghtaling, Lazarus Reed, Joseph Green, residing chiefly on or near Big Streams. Whether Isaac Stark was the first to settle on what is now the site of

Dundee, or whether the Houghtaling families were here before him, is a mooted question that I have not been able to decide and on which the older inhabitants disagree. It is probable that both families came in the same year. In 1807 Isaac Stark built a double log house on the site now occupied by James Bigelow's residence, corner of Main street and West avenue. (Mr. Stark was grandfather of Mrs. Ernest Daily.) He owned all the land from the corner of Main street east to the village limit and south to Big Stream. Mr. Stark offered the whole tract for a pair of gray horses. The owner of the horses declined to accept the offer. The land was originally so densely covered with pitch pine trees that the older inhabitants used to say a "single ray of sun-light could not penetrate them, and it was dusk at noon." The Houghtalings owned 200 acres on the north side of Seneca street. The land was called "pine barrens," and was considered of little value.

Harpending's Corners was the name by which Dundee was known at that time, and the word "corners" fully describes the place. There were then only the four principal streets, viz.: Main, Seneca, Water and Union, if we except Millard street, which was only a country road, and Spring street, then so-called Potash lane, a private alley leading to an ashery located at its western terminus. To say Harpending's Corners was not an inviting or pleasant place to look upon would be to state the question in a very mild form. The appearance of the village was dreary and desolate. The streets were rough and uneven, filled with piles of lumber, shingles and staves, and were profusely decorated with stumps. Cows, pigs, and geese ran at large, and pig-troughs were in front of some of the dwellings. There were no side-walks, no shade trees, no churches, no lawyers, no justices or other town officers, no stages, livery or other public conveyances, and what will indicate the very low grade of civilization, there was not a billiard or gambling room in the village. Not to say that there was not any of the last named business. There was a large amount in a small way, which was usually transacted in the hay-mows of barns and horse-sheds. "Old Sledge" was the game, and the stakes were "a shilling a corner," whatever that might imply. Long rows of unsightly rail fences were on all the streets. There were about thirty buildings, large and small (mostly small), and illy kept, scattered along the four principal streets singly and in small huddles.



There were no agents or *drummers* in those early times. The "commercial traveler" was not known. The system of selling goods by sample was not inaugurated until many years later. It has come to stay and gives employment to an army of very competent men, and is a matter of great convenience to merchants, many of whom never visit the cities to make their purchases. The merchants "went below" twice each year, spring and fall, and their goods were transported by canal. "Going below" implied a trip to Troy, Albany, and sometimes to New York. After receiving their goods their shelves would be reasonably full. Then there would be a rush of customers for *new goods*, and as the shelves became empty the goods would be condensed on the lower shelves and a strip of wall paper would be stretched over the empty shelves. In two months after the goods were received the assortment would be broken, and in a month a great many articles could not be obtained. Often there would not be a pound of sugar in the town, and a scarcity of many other articles. Money was scarce and a great portion of the business was in barter. "Store pay" was almost considered "legal tender." All kinds of grain and other produce were among the exchanges. Ashes was a very important factor, there being two ash-eries where potash was manufactured. Lumber and staves were taken at low figures—five dollars per thousand bought very good lumber. Shingles were bought in very large quantities. It was not an unusual sight to see large numbers of horse and ox-teams loaded with shingles on the streets, and if there was a woman on the load, as was often the case, it was considered mortgaged.

There was one hotel, owned and kept by Samuel Harpending, grandfather of the present proprietor. Harpending House has been owned by some member of the Harpending family for more than seventy years, and has always been deservedly popular and noted for its good cheer. The original proprietor, "Uncle Sam," as he was familiarly called, was a character in his way. Large and burly of figure, the ideal of a country landlord, clear headed and shrewd in business affairs, kind and generous of heart withal, though tempestuous of temper. When once aroused it was no gentle shower that distilled, but a thunder storm, a hurricane, a tornado. His vocabulary of abusive language was wonderful, and woe to the unlucky wight who chanced to fall under his

displeasure. He made things lively while the storm raged, but it would subside as quickly as it had been raised, and he would be just as ready in half an hour to do his victim a favor as he was to pour on him his wrath. The old man had always a retinue of dead-heads about him, and I believe that custom has been continued by his successors. No one was refused food and shelter at the Harpending House for want of money. He gave liberally to the churches—to the first three built, each a building lot and a subscription equal to that of any of the members.

In those days Harpending's Corners was a dependent of Eddytown, taking the crusts and crumbs thrown to it, and eating its humble pie with thankfulness. Eddytown was the favored village, with its five stores, church, two hotels, lawyers, doctors, and a variety of mechanics. It had a daily mail and a daily line of four-horse stage coaches. It was favorably located on the direct stage road between Geneva and Elmira (then Newtown), and was then the principal village on the route, a place of more business importance than Watkins (under whatever alias that village was then known). Real estate in Eddytown commanded nearly double the price that the same kind of property could sell for in this place. The policy of Eddytown toward Harpending's Corners was one of repression, and she used her power and opportunity for that purpose. It had already begun to look upon the upstart as a possible business rival. Eddytown controlled the politics of the town and disposed of the political favors, which explains why then there were no town officers located in this place. Eddytown had a monopoly of shows, general trainings, Fourth of July celebrations, etc. Town meetings were always held there, and when elections were held on three successive days at three different places. Harpending's Corners, although the most centrally located, was always left out in the cold. In order to prevent the elections from being held at the "Corners" they were often held in remote corners of the town. I recollect that in the election of 1832 (General Jackson's last run for the Presidency), that election was held the first day at Torrence's Tavern, on the farm now owned by Daniel Sproul, the second day at Rock Stream, and the third at Eddytown. This was the usual custom, but it was the last time that it occurred. In the spring of 1831 Samuel Kress, a very competent man, ran for the office of jus-

tice of the peace and was defeated, not from any personal objection to the candidate, but merely on a local issue. There was no pretence that Mr. Kress was not qualified for the office, and he belonged to the party in the majority. The political magnates willed that there should be no justice located at Harpending's Corners, and it was some years before one was allowed, and then only that Eddytown should furnish the material. They sent James L. Seeley, who was duly elected. They might have done a worse turn. Mr. Seeley was honest and thoroughly competent and acceptable, and became one of the leading citizens. This was doing justice by installments. Following the election of Mr. Seeley a full quota of officers was allowed, although not from choice. Harpending's Corners had tired of acting as tail to the Eddytown kite, and demanded and received as her right what had before been granted as a favor.

In the spring and summer of 1831 there was a small boom in building. Samuel Huson built a store and dwelling on the corner of Water and Union streets. John Sweeney, Dr. Benjamin Nichols, B. B. Beekman, Thomas Swarthout and E. J. Smith, each built dwellings on Main street, west side. The Harpending House was enlarged and the Baptists erected the first house of worship in the village. From this time the future of the village was assured, and Eddytown as a business place was doomed, its prestige was gone. Little by little its trade left and was absorbed by its young rival. One by one its stores disappeared; some closed out, some removed, and others went out legitimately (failed), until in time there was none left.

Starkey Corners was a place of considerable business importance. It had a church, Methodist Episcopal, one store, two hotels, and a good supply of mechanics. The store and one of the hotels have gone; the other hotel is the Reeder homestead. A few dwellings occupied by the owners is all that remains of the hamlet which in early times had quite as much business as Harpending's Corners.

In the summer of 1834 the changing of the name of the village was agitated. There had been an attempt to call it Plainville, which failed, there being another village of that name in the State. This probably produced more excitement than any event before or since. The number of names proposed were only limited to the number of the inhabit-

ants, nearly every one having a pet name largely of the "ville" order. The Harpending family very naturally wanted the old name in part retained, and proposed "Harpending" or 'Harpendale." Rev. E. W. Martin's choice was La Grange, while others thought Stark or Starkville the better name at a meeting called to decide the matter. James Gifford proposed Dundee, which was accepted. The real contest was between Dundee and La Grange. Mr. Gifford afterward emigrated West and founded the city of Elgin, Ill., to which he gave another Scotch name. Mr. Gifford built the first house in Elgin. He named another village in Illinois Dundee. From these names it would be supposed that he was a Scotchman. This was not so. He was an old-fashioned singing-school teacher and selected his names from the *musica sacra*. While Eddytown and Starkey's Corners was favored with a daily mail and a daily line of four-horse stage coaches, and Wayne and Tyrone had the same accommodation, a weekly mail service, and that carried on horseback, was the postal accommodations for this place until 1838. The Hon. J. T. Andrews, while in Congress, with difficulty had the service increased to semi-weekly mail. The late Nehemiah Raplee was postmaster, and the postoffice was kept in the kitchen of his dwelling. There was no public conveyance to and from Dundee until about the year 1841. Then Col. Benjamin Tuthill, of Starkey's Corners, mail contractor, put upon the road a one-horse vehicle in which the mail and passengers were carried to and from Starkey Landing, on Seneca Lake. The mail service had been increased to a tri-weekly mail. The accommodation was ample and the old red one-horse "'bus" was never so crowded but that there was room for one more.

Saturday was considered a holiday. The people from the country flocked into the village. Shooting at a "mark," wrestling, jumping, and base-ball playing (old style), and other sports were indulged in. The day usually closed with one or more scrub-races and several fights—whisky was cheap, three cents a glass or a shilling a bottle. The race course was Seneca street, and the stakes were one, three, and on extra occasions five dollars. Also a special purse of ten dollars was sometimes risked.

In speaking of the early inhabitants and their relation to the early history of the village, the late Gen. Nehemiah Raplee was a prominent



figure. For more than a half century he was a resident of this place, and in its early days was associated with its material development. He was always alive to the interest of the village, and in many ways contributed to its advancement. He held many important offices and was elected as a Democrat to the Assembly in 1848, when the county was Whig by a large majority. Subsequently he was elected associate judge, and for some years was brigadier-general of militia. He was always ready to lend a helping hand to the young and those starting in life. His endorsement, and Samuel Harpending's, were on many notes, and were always honored at the bank. Many now in good circumstances were indebted to such help for their start in life. After misfortune had overtaken him he said to the writer that he never asked favors of those he had helped but of those on whom he had no claim. He made no concealment of his likes or dislikes and was a man of decided opinions, and being a trifle belligerent sometimes, made enemies. Those who only remember him in the latter days of his life, when crushed and broken by misfortune would hardly recognize in him the handsome, active, busy, hustling business man of early days.

*Fires.*—Dundee has been severely scourged by fires. The three most disastrous occurred in the year 1859-60-61. The first started on the east side of Main street in the center of a frame block, and burning in both directions destroyed all but one building (Mrs. Wolcott's) between Hollister and Seneca streets, and on Seneca street east to the Sleeper residence. The second large fire was started on the west side of Main street on the site of the Wilson house, and burning north destroyed every building to the corner of Union street. The losses in this fire were estimated at \$60,000, insurance \$37,000. In this fire George Sayre lost a store. A. C. Harpending, a dry goods merchant, lost a block of three brick stores, estimated loss \$20,000, insurance \$4,500; he had no insurance on his stock. Hamlin & Martin, dry goods, estimated loss \$20,000; real loss not more than \$12,000, fully insured. W. B. Hamlin lost a block of three brick stores. W. H. Sawyer, dry goods, \$12,000, and twelve other concerns including clothing, millinery, and drug stores, oyster saloon, law office, daguerrean and record office. There was no other spot in the village where so large an amount was exposed; a greater amount was destroyed than in all previous

fires. The great fire commenced about one o'clock on Saturday morning of March 1, 1861. It was first discovered in a barn in the rear of a brick block on Water street. A gale was blowing at the time and the fire spread in all directions. Everything went down before it. It was said that there were forty buildings burning at one time. This was the third great fire. The people were panic stricken and gave up the town as doomed. There was not a building left on the corners. All the landmarks were gone and men blundered and stumbled in the darkness and fell into the cellars. There were but half the number of inhabitants that there is now, and in proportion to the size of the town it was a more disastrous fire than those of Chicago or Boston. There was no places for business left, and so the merchants erected rough board shanties of 100 feet in length, where they transacted their business until other buildings were erected. In these fires N. F. Murdock lost twelve stores and his dwelling and barn. W. B. Hamlin lost one brick and one frame block. He had three buildings on the same foundation in one year. Hamlin & Martin lost two stocks of goods in three months; beginning with \$20,000 stock and ending with \$300. Justus Ellis lost two hotels, three brick stores, one bowling-alley, three barns, and several mechanics shops. The Harpending House was burned leaving the village without a hotel. The business part of the east side of Main street has been burned over three different times: The two last fires were undoubtedly incendiary. Henry Light was indicted and tried for the offence. The jury did not agree. Eleven jurors voted for conviction, one for acquittal. He was given his choice between another trial or enlisting for three years in the army. He chose the latter, soon deserted and was lost sight of.

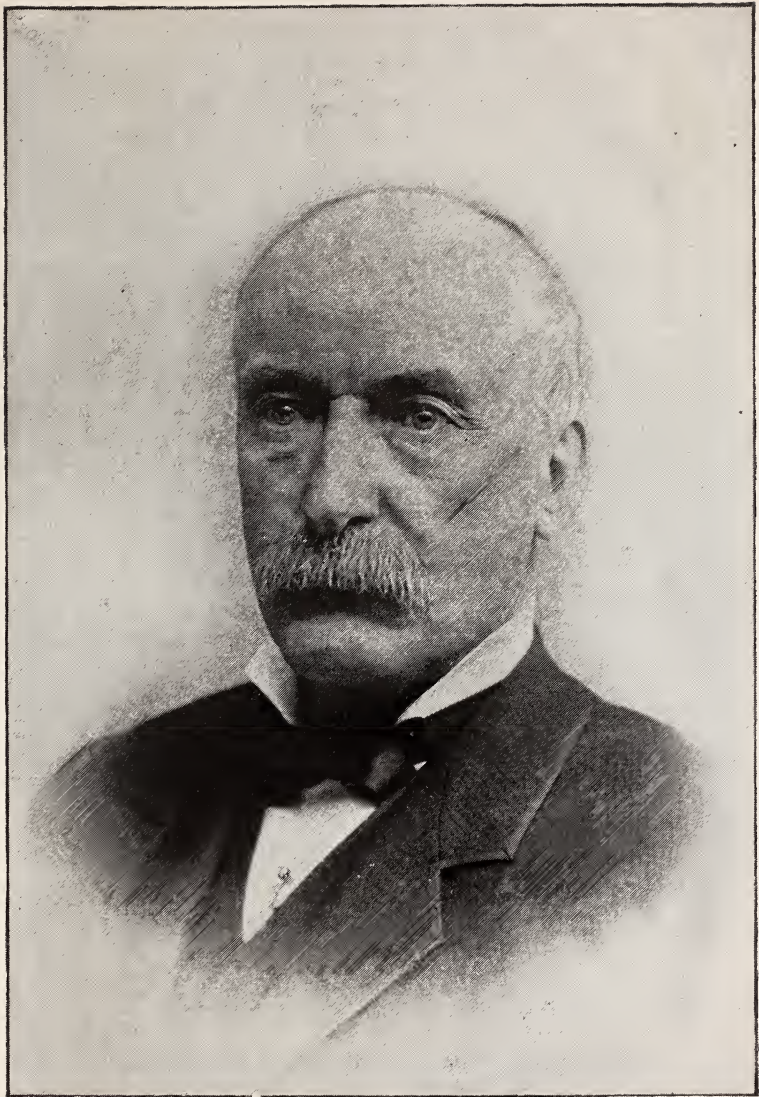
*Banks.*—The first banking institution was "Jep" Raplee's exchange and banking office opened in 1856; soon after it was changed into a State bank, 1857, and moved to Penn Yan 1858. The bank building and fixtures were sold to H. G. Stafford, who continued the business until 1871, when it closed. Lewis J. Wilkin opened a banking office in 1868 and continued in business until 1880, when he sold to the Dundee National Bank. The National bank began business April 1, 1880, with a capital of \$50,000, with James Spicer, president; Morris F. Sheppard, vice-president; and Frank R. Durry, cashier. Mr. Spicer still retains the

office of president; the vice-president, M. F. Sheppard, was succeeded by T. D. Beekman, January 1887. Mr. Beekman is still vice president. The cashier, F. R. Durry, was succeeded by George S. Sheppard, January 1, 1881. Mr. G. S. Sheppard held that office until August, 1882, and was then succeeded by G. S. Shattuck, who still retains that position, November, 1891.

Dundee State Bank, February 28, 1882, Andrew Harpending, president; Lewis J. Wilkin, cashier. Present officers, George P. Lord, president; William C. Swarts, vice-president; Lewis J. Wilkin, cashier; H. J. Youngs, assistant cashier. Capital, \$50,000.

*Former Business Firms.*—The following list of former business firms are given from memory. There may be a few errors, and possibly some omissions, but the list is nearly accurate. The firms are given in the order of their existence as near as can be ascertained, and date down to a few years. Jonathan Botsford, John Starkey, Starkey & Simmons, Honey & Simmons, Doolittle & Simmons, Calvin Honey (failed 1830), Simmons & Huson (Alonzo), Burgess Truesdell, Myron Hamlin, Samuel Huson, Newell F. Murdock, 1832, William and J. H. Kinnan, 1834, Ira Fisher (peddler), Huson & Lewis, Samuel Kress, Huson & Simmons (G. W.), Caleb Westcott, Lewis & Kress, W. B. Hamlin, 1835, E. W. Lewis & Co., 1837, Miller & Huson, Cyrus Miller, A. C. Harpending, 1835, Smith & Silsbee, James Holden, J. D. Morgan & Co. (hardware), S. Huson, 1839, George W. Simmons, E. W. Lewis & Co. (G. W. S.), Huson & Maltby, R. H. Murdock & Co., A. Maltby & Co. (Raplee), Maltby & Bradley, Benham & Horn, S. S. Benham, Stafford, Martin & Co., 1846, (first time for Martin 1847), Eaton, Spicer & Co., Spicer & Church (failed), Hollister & Parks (failed), Morgan & Caton, Caton & Wickoff, James Watson, Edmund H. Pierce, H. B. Newcomb (failed), Valentine Oldfield, J. T. Raplee, William B. Hamlin & Co., 1849, (C. H. Martin), John Caton (hardware), F. Holden, Clapp & Crittenden, W. H. Sawyer & Bro. (E. L.), Eaton, Spicer & Co., A. Maltby & Co. (Huson), David E. Bedell, Horace Kidder, John Spicer, Rothchild (clothing), George P. Rose (jewelry), two or three other clothing stores a short time, A. Wolf (clothing), L. C. Murdock (drugs), Hamlin & Martin, Maltby & McLean, Hiram Murdock, Smith & Benedict, Beam & Noble, W. Benedict, William Sawyer (clothing),





Wm. Spicer





Jacob Koons, Smith & Kingsley, John Backman, Horn & Benedict, C. R. Tenant, Smith & Headley, Morris Grant (fire bug), Ira D. Fowler, Martin Vosburgh & Co., 1866, Green, Rhode & Knapp, C. E. Smith, Woodward Bros., James Headley, Luther Brown, Rhode & Knapp, A. Maltby & Son, A. Hollister, C. P. McLean & Co., George Z. Noble, M. E. Bennett & Bro., George Harrington, Harpending & Bro., Boardman & Tate, Martin & Vosburgh, R. Vosburgh & Son.\*

*Present Business Firms.*—In the dry goods trade the firm of C. P. McLean & Co. is the oldest. Mr. McLean commenced business about thirty years ago in partnership with Augustus Maltby. The present firm commenced business in 1872. The firm are doing a large and apparently a profitable business. They keep a general stock, including all articles sold in a country store. Wall & Murdock are in the same trade. They are young men, very ambitious, and are selling a large amount of goods. Mr. Wall came from Grand Rapids, and was a clerk for Martin & Vosburgh several years. At the present time there are four grocery stores, Floyd Ludlow, John C. Koons, James Headly, and Charles Wixon, all reliable and prospering. The clothing business is represented by L. D. West and Samuel Levi; both carry large stocks and have a custom department. A. T. Gay is doing a tailoring business at his dwelling. The boot and shoe business is represented by John H. Knapp and George Kingsley. The dry goods and clothing houses have shoe departments and are doing a good business in that line. The two millinery and fancy goods stores are conducted by George H. Harrington and Mrs. Clary Finch, where attractive assortments of goods can be found at all times, and at reasonable prices. Charles Tenant and Levi Sproul represent the jewelry business of the village. The two drug stores of W. T. Millard and S. A. Price, with their extensive assortments would compare favorably with those of our largest cities. L. C. Davis has a variety store.

The buying and shipping of grain and fruit, which before the building of the Syracuse, Geneva & Corning Railroad, was merely nothing, has become the largest business of the village. Three large elevators were erected near the depot. They are owned by C. Swarts, W. S. Earnest, and Charles Watson respectively, giving the natural grain and fruit market fine facilities for the purchase and shipping of cereals. Each of

them are doing a lively business. The Goble brothers, Charles, George and Harry, erected on the completion of the railroad, near the depot, a large planing-mill. This is one of the most important manufacturing enterprises of the village. Charles Rowland occupies the old location of the Dundee Manufacturing Company, and makes a specialty of the manufacture of the Dundee chilled plow. All other work in the foundry line receives attention.

Harrison Howell, successor to Strader Howell (his father) is proprietor of the barrel factory on Union street. The demand for fruit barrels the present season has been so great that he has had orders for barrels a month ahead, and it was not unusual to see a line of a dozen teams waiting their turn. He also has a large basket factory, giving employment to a large number of girls and boys.

Timothy Lynch, William Hamilton, William Paige and J. Ruddick compose the quartette of blacksmiths, all in a huddle on Union street. Two wagon shops, Jesse C. Knapp and J. Baker, in the same neighborhood, with Rowlands foundry complete the manufacturing and mechanical interests of Union street.

Up to the month of November, 1843, the town had been without a newspaper. In that month the want was supplied by Gifford J. Booth who issued the first number of the *Dundee Record*. Some time in the first years of its publication William Butman became a partner and the firm of Booth & Butman continued the publication until 1847. At that time Edward Hoogland became owner and editor. Mr. Hoogland was an old newspaper reporter and had worked on the New York *Herald*. The *Record* under Mr. Hoogland's management was a spicy and readable paper, and his retirement from the editorship of the paper was regretted by all his patrons. Mr. Hoogland removed to Kansas where he remained until his death which occurred many years ago.

J. J. Diefendorf became editor and owner of the *Record* in 1853 and held the position until 1857 or 1858, when it was sold and David Bruner became editor and owner. In 1860 the entire plant of the *Record* was destroyed by the fire of November 30, and Henry Bruner became a partner in January, 1861. The Bruners sold out to George D. A. Bridgman in the fall of 1862. Bridgman made a Democratic paper of it and supported Horatio Seymour for governor. The change was not

popular and he sold at the first opportunity to "Elder" J. M. Westcott. Under the management of Mr. Westcott it did not thrive, and at his death it came into the possession of his grandsons, who sold it to Dr. Noble, and after having a half dozen or less owners it was merged in the *Home Advocate*, and the *Dundee Record* was a thing of the past. The next paper was the *Dundee Herald*, published by Dennison & Hobson. It was short-lived and was finally sold to — Robinson. In 1869 Mr. Robinson traded the *Dundee Expositor* with George D. A. Bridgman for the *Penn Yan Express*. Bridgman conducted the paper for one year, and in March, 1870, he stopped its publication and moved the material to Penn Yan. He then repurchased the *Penn Yan Express* of Robinson, and in the deal Robinson took the material of the *Expositor* and moved it to Charleston or Savannah.

*Early Merchants.*—In the year 1808 or 1809 Benjamin Potter built a double log house on the west side of Main street just across Big Stream. The building was occupied as dwelling and tavern, and was the first public house in what is now the village of Dundee. Twelve feet north of the house he located his blacksmith shop. The twelve feet between the buildings was enclosed and occupied by Jonathan Botsford, known sobriquet of "Ducklegs," or "Ducklegs Johnny." This was the first store in what is now Dundee. The place had no name then (it was before the Harpending's Corners era) and was sometimes called Stark's Mills. Of Johnny's antecedents it is known that he was the son of Jonathan Botsford, who came in with the Universal Friend and was one of her adherents. It is safe to assume that his business was not a success, for after his store had remained closed for two days the door was forced and Botsford was found hanging by the neck stark and dead.

Potash in those early days was the main reliance of the merchant. It was about the only article that commanded cash, and was marketed with difficulty. The time of which I am now writing was long before the building of the Erie Canal, and the only water communication was by the way of the Seneca and Oswego Rivers to Lake Ontario, and the market was Montreal.

Soon after Botsford's suicide we find John Walton occupying the same premises. He afterward built a store and dwelling combined, south of Big Stream near the apple trees on the old fairground. The building re-



mained until a few years since, when it was taken down. Mr. Walton was a native of Nova Scotia. His business, though small, was a paying one,—at least *he* paid. It was managed with the most rigid economy.

The only public conveyance of the times was the four horse “tally-ho” stage coach, and the fare was six cents per mile. To avoid this expense Mr. Walton traveled the distance to and from New York or Albany on foot to make his purchases, saving about \$40 each trip. He became involved in law suits and was compelled to close his business and leave the town. He returned to Nova Scotia, where he remained until his death, which occurred many years ago. After Mr. Walton closed his business the hamlet was for some time without a store. Eddytown monopolized the business and was the most important place between Geneva and Elmira (then Newtown.)

The next merchant in order was John Starkey. Mr. Starkey was a native of Maryland, but came here from Seneca County. He built a store on the west side of Main street, on the brow of the hill where Nathan Sayre's dwelling now stands. This building was afterward moved on to the Presbyterian church lot, and after being occupied for mechanics' shops, gambling rooms, and dwelling, was purchased by the Presbyterian Society, a “lean-to” was attached to it and it was used as a meeting-house. The old building was destroyed by fire in 1860. Mr. Starkey was an able, enterprising and successful merchant. The late Nehemiah Raplee made his debut in this place as clerk for Mr. Starkey. In company with his brother-in-law, Clayton Semans, Mr. Starkey built the old red grist-mill, the second grist-mill in the town, near the Big Stream bridge on Main street. The mill was burned a few years since. Soon after it was completed Semans sold his interest in the mill to his partner, and about the same time another brother-in-law, Samuel Kress, became a member of the firm. On April 6, 1824, the town of Starkey was organized. It was taken from the town of Reading. In honor of Mr. Starkey it was given his name, and he was the first supervisor elected. After remaining in business a few years the firm of Starkey & Kress was dissolved. The mills and other real estate were sold to Nehemiah Raplee; consideration, \$9,000. Mr. Starkey removed to Starkey's Corners, which was considered the more eligible business place, there built a store, and for a time left the hamlet

again destitute of a mercantile establishment. After residing in Starkey's Corners some years Mr. Starkey removed to the village of Lodi where he remained until his death.

*Honey & Simmons.*—In the year 1824 Samuel Harpending erected on the southwest corner of Main and Union streets, in what at the time was a pasture lot, a one and a half story frame store for the firm of Honey & Simmons. The inevitable ashery belonging to the store was on Union street. The firm remained in business about three years, when it was dissolved. Honey built a new store on the corner of Main and Spring streets ("Potash lane"), and carried on the business alone, Simmons continuing the business at the old stand with — Doolittle, first, and later, Samuel Huson as partner.

Calvin Honey occupied a very prominent place in the early history of the village. His failure, the first that occurred in the village, gave undue prominence to a very ordinary man. Mr. Honey came from Troy, N. Y. He had formerly been engaged in the Hudson River trade, running a sloop, of which he was the owner, between Troy and New York. It is supposed that he had at some time had some experience as clerk in some mercantile establishment in Troy. He had accumulated a capital of \$1,300, which he invested in the business of the firm of Honey & Simmons. Thirteen hundred dollars was no mean sum in those times. The firm of Honey & Simmons was successful, and Mr. Honey had probably added to his capital before commencing business on his own account. After the dissolution of the firm of Honey & Simmons, Honey built a store on the corner of Main and Spring streets, was not successful in business, and in 1830 made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors to Samuel Kress. Honey was a dull, heavy man, and his personal appearance was not prepossessing. He was short, square built, stoop shouldered, dull eyed, of a tallow-colored complexion, and had a downcast look. His appearance was that of a common laborer. It used to be said that "he would sell a bill of goods on credit, place a dunning letter in the package and sue the purchaser before he reached home." After his failure he removed to Mount Morris, where he remained several years, and after serving a term in Auburn prison for grand larceny he returned to Dundee, where he remained until his death. The last years of his life he supported himself and family by working as a common laborer.

Alonzo Simmons was born in Washington County in the village of Whitehall. In his obituary notice we read that his "parents were only in moderate circumstances, consequently his only heritage was an iron will, and industry and perseverance that knew no bounds." Mr. Simmons was a clear-headed business man and a very successful merchant. He served in the War of 1812 with honor. After pursuing various avocations until 1824, he came into what is now Dundee, and in company with Calvin Honey occupied the store at the corner of Main and Union streets, built for them by Samuel Harpending. After a few years the firm of Honey & Simmons was dissolved, and Mr. Simmons continued the business at the old stand, first with — Doolittle as partner, and afterward with Samuel Huson. After closing his business here he moved to Avoca, Steuben County, and continued in the same business with his brother George as partner. From there he removed to Rock Stream, continuing in business until 1843, when, having accumulated a large and constantly increasing fortune, he retired from active business and purchased a farm at Reading Center, where he resided until his death.

—— Doolittle came from Seneca County. Of his business qualifications little is known. He was a large man of fine presence. He would now be called a "dude," but "dandy" was the term then applied to him. He is said to have been a man of violent temper, and was not popular with his customers. A story used to be told of his carrying an elegant silk umbrella. One day while passing from his store to his boarding-house, during a violent storm, a sudden gust of wind wrenched it from his hand and deposited it in a mud-puddle. This so enraged him that he jumped upon the offending article, stamped it in the mud and left it a perfect wreck. Mr. Doolittle did not remain long. He returned to his former residence, when he was lost sight of.

Burgess Truesdell's former residence was Columbia County, N. Y., his occupation school teaching. His advent in this place dates from 1826. He bought on the southeast corner of Main and Seneca street a building formerly occupied as a "tavern." The corner room, former bar-room, dimensions about 15 x 20 feet, he fitted up for a store. The room was small but ample for the amount of business.

In 1832 or 1833 he sold the premises to Col. J. J. Smith for hotel pur-

poses, and built a small store on the corner of Main and Spring streets. Spring street was a private alley leading to an ashery owned by Mr. Truesdell. In 1835, or about that time, he sold his store and business to Cyrus Miller, and was for a short time in business with his brother Alvin, at Starkey. He then bought the farm now owned by Mr. Brundage, in Starkey, where he remained until he removed to Elgin, Ill., where he was one of the pioneers. There he resided until his death, a man of few faults and many virtues. By a fortunate purchase of land in the early settlement of Elgin he became one of the magnates of that city. It has been and still is a puzzle to the later merchants, who have sold ten times the amount of goods sold by these fathers in the trade and hardly make ends meet, to know how it was done — how so small a business could be made to pay. Small expenses and large profits solves that problem. The business of those times was mostly conducted by the owner and a boy or low-priced young man as clerk. Ten to fifteen dollars per month was the maximum price; the minimum price was about nothing at all. The profits were enormous, often 75 to 100 per cent.; \$3,000 to \$6,000 was a good yearly business.

Myron Hamlin came to Harpending's Corners (now Dundee) in 1830, and was originally from Salisbury, Conn. Previous to his locating here he had been in business at some point on Lake Champlain. He was surprised to find in his business competitor his old school-teacher, Burgess Truesdell. He bought the store on the southwest corner of Main and Union streets (the McLean corner), formerly occupied by Honey & Simmons. He brought with him not much experience as a merchant, but plenty of the proverbial push and shrewdness of the Connecticut Yankee. His business was well managed and prosperous from the outset, and it was here that he laid the foundation of his future success. About this time great questions began to agitate the public mind. The commencement of the temperance movement dates from about 1830, and the anti-slavery movement came to the front at the same time. To Myron Hamlin belongs the honor of conducting the *first temperance store in Dundee*. It was the custom of those times for country stores to sell liquors, and this custom continued many years later. In 1839 there were nine stores in Dundee, and eight of the nine sold intoxicants. Whisky paid better than any other merchandise.



For a few months Mr. Hamlin followed the prevailing custom and sold all kinds of liquors; but becoming convinced of the evil and misery caused by the traffic, he not only banished alcoholic stimulants from his store, but waged a fierce and brave war against the evil. Upon his counters could be seen stacks of temperance tracts and periodicals, and every package that left his store contained one or more of these missives. The passage from temperance to anti-slavery was natural and easy. In the early days of the anti-slavery movement it cost something to be an abolitionist. It cost a merchant in the loss of custom. It often cost a minister the loss of his pulpit and living. More than half a century has passed, and the younger generations have but small appreciation of the rancor and hatred bestowed on those who believed in and advocated the right of a man to the ownership of himself, his wife and children. Anti-slavery meetings were broken up, the speakers insulted and hustled, and often pelted with ancient and unsavory eggs. The press thundered and the pulpit hurled its anathemas against the "cut-throats and incendiaries." "Cursed be Canaan" was the theme of many a sermon, and the late Dr. Van Dyke preached in Brooklyn that slavery was a Divine institution.

About this time William Lloyd Garrison was mobbed by the solid men of Boston; Lovejoy was murdered and his printing press was thrown in the Mississippi at Alton, Ill., and the office of the anti-slavery paper edited by the Quaker poet Whittier was burned by a Philadelphia mob. Being an abolitionist was no joke in those days. But no personal considerations influenced those pioneers in the cause. They believed their cause to be right, and advocated it regardless of personal considerations. The party in the village at that time consisted of four members all told—M. Hamlin, the Rev. E. W. Martin, James Gifford, and Alonzo De Wolf. The number was small but there was a wonderful amount of back-bone in that quartette. They never fought on the defensive, particularly Mr. Hamlin, who was intensely aggressive. In the spring of 1835 Mr. Hamlin opened a branch store on the east side of Main street, occupying the building vacated by the Kinnans, with his brother, William B. Hamlin, manager. In 1836 he sold his whole business to his brother and removed to Buffalo, where he remained but a short time, finally settling in Penn Yan, where he remained until his death, having for fifty years been the leading merchant of the county.

The year 1831 was noted for a new impetus given to building and other interests of the village. The first church (Baptist) was built in 1832, and in the year 1833 the Methodist and Free Church (now Catholic) were erected. An old Eddytown merchant once told the writer that the decline in business in that place dates from the building of the churches in Dundee. In the spring of 1831 Samuel Huson erected on the northeast corner of Union and Water streets, on the site of the store now occupied by Wall & Murdock, and others in the Murdock block, a store and dwelling. The land up to that time had been used for farming purposes. Mr. Huson managed his business discreetly and it was a success. His ambition was not so much to do a large business as to do a paying one. He was very popular with his patrons and well liked by his employees. About two years after commencing business Edwin Lewis was admitted as partner, forming the firm of Huson & Lewis. This firm continued two years when Mr. Lewis retired and George W. Simmons was admitted as partner in the firm of Huson & Simmons. This firm did a thrifty business for several years, and closed out their goods to Cosad & Carmon, who removed them to Junius, Ontario County.

Newell F. Murdock's former residence was McLean, Cortland County; his business, tanner and shoe and harness manufacturer. Before coming to Dundee he had been engaged in the mercantile business about four years. He came to what was then Harpending's Corners, in the year 1832, and rented part of the corner store of Myron Hamlin (there were two stores in a building 28x40). Hamlin occupying the other room. In the year 1833 he built a frame store on the east side of Main street, on the site now occupied by John H. Knapp. A peculiarity of his was that he never insured his buildings. His policy worked well for many years, but in the end proved disastrous. In all of the large fires he suffered loss. The loss included three blocks of stores, his private dwelling and other buildings, all uninsured. He died in 1861, after a mercantile experience of over thirty years, a man universally respected. His death removed one of the landmarks of the village.

Cyrus Miller was a wool-carder and cloth-dresser when most of the family clothing was made at home. He purchased of Burgess Truesdell his store and goods in the year 1834. Mr. Miller was a limited mer-

chant. His stock was limited, and so were his sales; one-half pound of tea, and other articles in proportion, was the limit he would sell to one person. He "did not want to break his assortment." This was in the early days of his mercantile life. Later he was not so limited. Fire and water ruined him. A canal boat having on board his fall purchases sank, and soon after his store was burned. This finished him as a merchant. He, honest man that he was, he surrendered his property to his creditors and began life anew. The last heard from him he was practicing medicine in some western State.

In the spring of 1832 Col. J. J. Smith bought of Burgess Truesdell the lot on the southeast corner of Main and Seneca streets, on part of the purchase now occupied by W. H. Millard's drug store. He erected a frame store, which he rented to William H. and Joel H. Kinnan. The Kinnans came from North Hector, where their father resided, a wealthy farmer. Some of the family still reside in that locality. The firm appeared to sell a large amount of goods, but failed to make their business a paying one, and after a struggle of two or three years they were obliged to surrender. This was the second failure at Harpending's Corners. William returned to North Hector and engaged in farming, and Joel H. removed to Westfield, Chautauqua County, and engaged in his former business, with what success the writer is not informed. Both of the partners have been dead several years.

William B. Hamlin was born in the town of Salisbury, Conn., where he resided until he came to Dundee. His father owned a large tract of land on which William worked in the summer, and taught school in the winter, as was the custom with farmers in Yankeedom in those days. His first experience in mercantile affairs was as a clerk for his brother Myron. This was in 1835. The succeeding year he purchased his brother's business, and for more than thirty years conducted one of the largest business concerns in Yates County. The first years of his business life he pursued a very conservative policy. In the year 1842, six years from the time he commenced business, his sales were only *seven thousand dollars*, and he was in a small way making money. If he had continued this policy, the natural outgrowth of his Yankee training, increasing his business as his capital increased, his success would have been assured. The next year, 1843, his sales were more than doubled,

amounting to \$16,000. This sudden increase may not have been to his advantage. He became possessed with the idea of selling a larger amount of goods than any other concern in Yates County. He had great energy and was very ambitious. His industry and powers of endurance were wonderful, and all his efforts were directed to this one object, *large* sales; profits were incidentals, although really his profits were larger than are now obtained by the merchants. Mr. Hamlin's business increased further than his capital and he was forced to raise money at ruinous rates of interest. This, with large running expenses, was the cause of his failure. His credit was always of a high order up to the day of his disaster. He had failed, but he had accomplished his purpose. His sales had increased every year until they amounted to over one hundred thousand dollars, the largest amount ever reported to the revenue assessor in Yates County. In conversation with the writer after his failure, Mr. Hamlin said in substance: "I have been thinking over the events of my past life, and I am pretty well satisfied I have had things pretty much my own way. I am much better pleased with my career than I would have been if it had been like Mr. —," mentioning the name of a very successful man whose business had been much smaller with a handsome fortune as the result. C. H. Martin was connected with Mr. Hamlin in business from 1842 to 1864, ten years as clerk and twelve years as partner. The firm was Hamlin & Martin.

Anthony C. Harpending, one of the most successful merchants of Dundee, commenced business in 1835 under very favorable circumstances; he had the prestige of the family name and was backed by his own and his wife's family, both wealthy. He had abundance of capital, and unlike most of the older merchants, was never pinched for means to carry on his business. He soon gathered a valuable lot of customers, many of whom he retained through all the years of his mercantile career. He was systematic, looked closely to the details of his business, and kept all well in hand. His business was usually managed with great caution, but he sometimes took risks that resulted in loss. The question of Mr. Harpending's place as a merchant may be a mooted question by some. I know of no better test than success, and making success the standard would place him in the front rank of the older or younger merchants of Dundee. The result of his business made a better showing



than that of any who preceded or followed him, that notwithstanding heavy losses by fire and otherwise. Mr. Harpending built a block of three brick stores on the west side of Main street; they were burned in the fire of November, 1860. He then built two frame stores on the same premises. In the same fire he lost almost his entire stock of goods, which resulted in heavy loss. His death, which occurred in 1880, removed one of the most prominent merchants of the county.

This town has eight churches, including Starkey Seminary, with a total valuation of \$62,000, viz.: Baptist Church, Dundee, \$15,000; Presbyterian, \$12,000; M. E. Church, Dundee, \$8,000; Olivet Baptist, \$3,000; Starkey Seminary, \$18,000; Third Presbyterian Church, \$3,000; Christian Church, Starkey and Reading, \$2,000. Starkey had a population in 1875 of 2,500. As late as 1812 George Putnam shot two deer on the space between the Harpending house and West's clothing store. Joel A. Taylor is the oldest man living that was born in the town of Starkey, his age is eighty two. Henry Smith opened a store in Eddytown in 1809.

*The Churches.*<sup>1</sup>—It would be interesting if we could trace the religious movement back to the early times when the settlers, few in numbers and poor in purse, congregated in their log cabins for prayer and praise. and when the larger congregations were gathered together in barns and groves to hear the preached word. Unfortunately the pioneers have passed away. The march of time has wiped out all those old land-marks, and the memory of those times, treasured in many hearts, but scantily recorded, have passed away with them beyond any hope of recovery, and there are few traditions that would give us much light on the happenings of those long-ago times. We must begin at a later date and tell what has happened under our own observation.

In the year 1830 we find the Methodists strongly intrenched at Starkey's Corners. Their church edifice, now standing, was built in the year 1821, and from that time the church has flourished and grown until it has become one of the strongholds of Methodism in the county. Among the members were numbered the Tuthills, Van Allens, Hurds,

<sup>1</sup> For much of the information contained in this chapter the writer is indebted to a history of the Dundee Methodist Church, prepared by the Rev. S. F. Sanford, on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the new Methodist Episcopal Church. .

Seamans, Truesdells, Hunts, Pierces, and Hyatts, of blessed memory. At that time the village and church were at their zeniths; since then there has been a gradual decline of both. The village has disappeared and the church has been weakened by deaths and other causes until it has become one of the weaker churches in the connection.

What has been said of the Methodist church would in a degree apply to the Presbyterian. They had selected Eddytown as their base and had become a strong body. The Eddytown church was organized in April, 1822, and the church edifice was built soon after. The church was strong in numbers, and among its members were some of the leading men of the county. One of the members, James Taylor, was a leading member of the bar of Yates County, and afterward a resident of Penn Yan. Other names were John O. Cook, John Taylor, James H. Carmichael, Hiram Titsworth, Isaac P. Seymour, Hon. James Norton, P. Broaderic, Harvey Weeks, Clarkson Martin, Benjamin Cheever, Dr. Enos Barnes, Nathaniel Roscoe, Thomas Wilson, Pardon Gifford. The Rev. Charles White officiated either as pastor or "supply." Mr. White was a ripe scholar, and, after his connection with the church was dissolved, was for years principal of Ovid and Prattsburgh Academies.

The first Baptist organization was in 1812, at Eddytown, which at the time was in the extensive town of Reading, and was called the "Baptist Church of Reading," finally re-named the "Baptist Church of Starkey." The church did not flourish there; it was overshadowed by the Presbyterians, so it drifted away, stopping for a while at Beartown school-house, but finally settling at Harpending's Corners, where it obtained a permanent foothold, and there, under a new organization, it has remained. Harpending's Corners at that time was considered of little importance, and for several years its possession was not disputed by other denominations. Elder Samuel Bigelow was a zealous man of great energy, just the man for the times. His ministrations were scattered over a great deal of territory, and their effects cannot be as easily estimated as they could be if they had occupied less space. There is a class of unrecognized benefactors; their service is none the less because it is unrecognized. Elder Simon Sutherland often lent a helping hand. In his old age, with tremulous voice, he loved to tell in his quaint way

of his journeyings from Second Milo to Eddytown and Harpending's Corners, through the wilderness, guided by marked trees (there were few roads in those days), taking his chances against wild beasts, the terror of the forests, to dispense the everlasting Word. Of the unrecognized benefactors Rev. Simon Sutherland deserves a high position. His ministerial labors extended over a series of fifty years, for which he not only never asked but refused to receive any compensation.

The labors of those fathers in the ministry have never been appreciated as they deserve. It is a pity that more is not known of them, their privations and hardships. This is a busy world now-a-days, and it does not pause to inquire of what does not concern it. Theirs is a common story, often told. All labor, all self-denial, little else; a small pittance given grudgingly and called charity. It seemed to make no difference with those pioneer preachers or their labors. They were encouraged and buoyed up, not by what they had or expected to have here, but by the anticipation of what was to come in the future. Like the great apostle they labored with their hands for their support, and after a day of toil would return to their poor homes, and taking the Bible from the shelf perhaps would read that "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of Heaven," and they would thank God devoutly that they were not rich. Or they might read of the beautiful city with streets of gold and foundations of precious stones. This was their inheritance, this was durable riches. They were positive in these possessions. To others it might be romance; to them it was real, and so they labored and prayed and went to their reward, and the world was better for their having lived in it.

The preaching of those days would not have been acceptable in these times, neither would the present style have pleased the pioneers. They were stalwarts and required strong spiritual food and a good deal of it, including hard doctrinal sermons. There was more fire and brimstone than love in the sermons of those days. It would be curious to know what those patriarchs in Israel would have thought of the churches of the present times, with their entertainments, festivals, fairs, theatricals and private progressive euchre and dancing parties. It would be safe to assume that they would have thought us "all miserable sinners,"

and that the whole concern was going to the "bow-wows." But who will say that the old way is better than the new? The church has enlarged its functions. It has taken hold of the social as well as the spiritual life of its members, and what bigotry once denounced as sinful liberality, now tolerates as innocent recreation.

The year 1832 was a notable one in the religious history of the village. In that year the first church edifice erected in Dundee was completed (the Baptist.) The Presbyterian Church was organized and the first class of the Methodist Church was formed. The Presbyterian Church was a cion from the Eddytown church. Its beginnings were exceedingly small; a mere handful, so to speak, were organized into a church in that year. The church was supplied with preaching from the parent church. The Rev. William Billington supplied both pulpits, preaching in the morning here, and in the afternoon in Eddytown.

The proportion of salary paid by the Second Presbyterian Church of Starky (I believe that was the title), was \$100 a year. Even this small sum was not raised without difficulty. Mr. Billington was very popular with both congregations, and his removal was generally regretted. He moved to the western part of the State, and a short time ago was living at a very advanced age. So far as remembered the male members of the church as organized were: John Taylor, James H. Carmichael, Aaron Porter, Mr. Hatch, Joseph Ireton, Thomas Wilson, and Alonzo De Wolf—a very small number. Mr. Bell was a very liberal giver to the church, and among his gifts was the lot upon which the parsonage was erected. Joel A. Taylor, Ezra D. Cook, Benjamin B. Beekman and Baltis Titsworth came into the church a few years later, and were active and efficient members. To the latter two, the late Mr. Beekman and our esteemed citizen, Baltis Titsworth, the church is under many obligations. Both have done good service and have tided the church over many difficulties. Without the help and the generosity of these families the present beautiful structure would not have been erected. John Taylor and James H. Carmichael were ruling elders in those early days of the church. How readily the picture of those worthies comes up before me, seated on a bench, one on each side of the preacher's desk, calm, sedate and dignified. A smile in church would to them have been a sin. Grand old men they were, long since gone to their reward.



During the early years of the church the late Myron Hamlin and Nehemiah Raplee contributed liberally to its support. Soon after the church was organized the present site of the new church edifice was purchased. On the lot at that time was the building formerly built and occupied by John Starkey as a store, an old dilapidated concern, "painted red." The building, repaired and added to and seated with benches, was used on Sundays as a place of worship, and on week days was rented for school purposes. For about ten years it was the meeting place of the church, when it was removed, and the building demolished about five years ago was erected in its place. The price paid for the lot and building was about \$400, and the repairs \$150 more, making an aggregate of \$550. From the best information obtainable this is the only church building that was completed without debt, except the Baptist Church, which was built and donated by H. Shannon. The building was not elegant, but it was comfortable and served the purposes of the church until a better one could be afforded.

Following are the names of the ministers who have served as pastor of Dundee Presbyterian Church, with the date of their terms of service: William Billington, 1832; B. Foster Pratt (first time), David Perry, B. Foster Pratt (second time), Avon H. Powell, 1845-1848; William Bridgeman, 1848-1849; — Frazer, John C. Moses (first time), 1852-1857; J. K. Warner, 1857-1859; W. W. Collins, 1859-1861; J. C. Moses (second time), 1862-1871; Walter S. Drysdall, 1871-1872; S. A. Rawson, 1873-1874; Nathan Bosworth, 1874-1883; W. H. Tracy, 1884-1887; Stanley B. Roberts, 1887-1891.

In the latter part of 1830 the Baptists called the Rev. E. W. Martin, of Geneva, to be their pastor. This pastorate continued until 1841 or '42, and is the longest on the records of the church *under its present organization*. It would probably have continued longer had it not been for the anti slavery question. During all those years the spirit of peace and harmony brooded over the church. Its membership was largely increased and the foundation was laid for its present commanding position.

In the early months of 1831 the question of building a "meeting-house" was agitated. Such a house had become a necessity, and a subscription was circulated to raise the necessary funds for that purpose.

A considerable portion of those subscriptions were payable in labor and materials. Andrew Raplee headed the list with a gift of \$100. He also gave a large amount in timber for which there was no charge. Samuel Harpending donated the lot and \$100. These were the largest subscriptions on the list. Excepting the above, which were cash, no amount appeared on the paper over \$50. It was no easy matter to raise the comparatively small amount needed to build the church edifice proposed. It required a resolute and patient effort, and after obtaining all possible by subscription, there was still a deficiency. The building of the church was commenced in the spring of 1831. Benjamin B. Beekman was the contractor. There were the usual delays, and it was not completed until some time in June, 1832. The building, as compared with the present edifices in this village, was a small affair, but it averaged well with the same kind of buildings of the times. It cost less than \$2,000, but small as that amount appears it was too large for the subscriptions, and a deficiency was reported of \$300 at date of dedication. This seemingly small amount, which now-a-days would be paid for a pair of diamond ear-rings or a seal-skin sack without much consideration, remained unpaid for some years and was a grievous burden. The members were poor, with a few exceptions, and the greater number were in debt for their farms. The aggregate wealth of the church did not exceed \$40,000, and was probably less. The debt was a source of annoyance to pastor and people. At a meeting called for the consideration of "ways and means" for payment, the pastor proposed to allow \$50 a year to be deducted from his meager salary, to be applied to extinguish the indebtedness. This offer was accepted, and that amount for three years was regularly deducted from his yearly stipend.

Before a deed was given for the lot a defect was discovered in the organization of the church. It was considered doubtful whether by that organization it was legally entitled to become owner and holder of real estate. The machinery of the Baptist Church is so extremely simple that this defect was easily remedied. The male members met at the pastor's house and organized the "Baptist Church of Plainville." The meeting in a private house was a common occurrence. The ordination services of Elder Bigelow were held in his dwelling. The school

houses during the secular days of the week were used for school purposes, hence the necessity of resorting to private dwellings. The regular Sunday service was sometimes held in private houses. The writer remembers one held at the dwelling of Thomas Roszell. At the close of the service there was a general invitation for the congregation to remain to dinner, and the greater part accepted. The tables were bountifully spread with good things, and the most pleased of the party were host and hostess. At the time of the organization of the Baptist Church of Plainville the male members were Andrew Raplee, Thomas Roszell, Dr. Millard Deacon, Moses S. Littell, John Beers, Levi French, Deacon Lewis La Fevar, father of the late Deacon La Fevar, Samuel Conklin, Ephraim Bennett, Abram Sheldon, Henry Osman, Joel Hayes, David Peterson, Daniel Miller, Alonzo W. Sunderlin (afterward ordained a minister), David B. Bartholomew, Abia Ketchum, David Hayes, sen., Richard Townsend, John Harmon, and Daniel Wilson.

In the year 1834 the name of the church was changed from Plainville to Dundee. Of the members of the Baptist Church of Plainville at its organization not one is now living. The following is a complete list of the pastors that have served the Baptist Church since its first organization: Samuel Bigelow, Baptist Church, Reading, 1812; E. W. Martin, Plainville, later Dundee, 1831-1842; C. S. Smith, 1841-1843; J. J. Fuller, 1843; Philander Shedd, 1845-1850; O. Montague, 1850-1852; J. L. Seeley, 1852-1855; F. Glenville, 1855-1856; T. S. Harrison, 1857-1862; Daniel Taylor, 1863-1866; L. C. Bates, 1867-1869; William Cormac, 1867-1870; G. W. Abrams, 1870-1871; William H. Pease, 1873; James Mullen, 1873; W. N. Tower, 1876; William Entworth, 1880; Isaac B. Thompson, 1881-1883; W. F. Benedict, 1883-1886; Jesse A. Hengate, 1886-1890; R. H. Colby, 1891.

In the year 1833 a band of Christian ministers invaded Dundee for the purpose of holding a series of meetings, and if sufficiently encouraged, of forming a church. Among the number were the Revs. Ira Brown, Millard Badger, and Dr. Holland, (whether it was the "Timothy Titcomb" Holland or another person of the same name the writer does not know; some persons who made his acquaintance aver that it was the veritable Timothy.) The ministers applied to the Baptist trustees for the privilege of holding the meetings in their church. The request was refused.

From one standpoint the refusal was unwise. It alienated friends and exasperated nearly the whole community. In those early times the people in all matters of difference usually "took sides," and so a fierce and bitter controversy was the result, and the church was placed in a wrong position, on the defensive. And so it came to pass that from the refusal of the trustees came the building of the Free Church. The ministers secured the use of a large barn belonging to Jacob Hackett, located on the lot now owned by Mr. Oldfield. In that barn they held their meetings of several days' duration, and in it was organized the Christian Church of Dundee.

While the dissatisfaction at the refusal of the Baptist trustees was highest the project of building a *free* church was agitated, and a subscription to raise the necessary funds was circulated. The responses were liberal and there was soon enough to warrant the commencement of the undertaking. Samuel Harpending came down with his usual subscription of fifty dollars and the building lot. The terms of the subscription were curious. After reciting the grievances it went on to say in substance that the proposed church should be absolutely free to any or all sects, denominations or individuals, that no one should be debarred from its use on account of religious belief, whether Pagan, Mahometan, Jew or Christian. The terms of the subscription paper gave to the infidel, deist or atheist, or the disciple of Buddah, the same rights and privileges as those of the most orthodox sects. The terms of the subscription were never repudiated while under the control of the free church or Christian trustees. From its pulpit Christians, Presbyterians, Methodists and Universalists have proclaimed their doctrines and dogmas.

The Christian Church organization was continued for many years. The building of Starkey Seminary diverted the attention of the church to that place, and the organizing of the church at Rock Stream so weakened this church that it ceased to exist. As was the case with the other churches, the subscriptions for the building of the free church were insufficient and the curse of debt rested upon it. For the payment of the debt it was mortgaged, and as time went on and the excitement that brought it into existence was forgotten, no provision for the payment of the debt having been made, the mortgage was foreclosed, and at the sale the church was bid off by Daniel Shannon, who donated



it to the Christian Church. There was a proviso in the deed given for the lot that when it ceased to be used for religious purposes it should revert to the original owners. The Christian Church having abandoned it, the lot became the property of the Harpending estate and was sold with the building to the present owners, the Catholics.

The Methodists from the smallest beginning numerically have become the largest in the village. The first Methodist class was formed in the year 1833. It was the outcome of a "protracted meeting" held in connection with the Baptists the previous year. The class numbered but few members. I can remember only the three Pierce brothers, Abel, Samuel and Abner, Arch Strowbridge, Thomas Swarthout, Asher Spicer, Nash Sawyer, Dill Sawyer, Isaac H. Maples, Edward J. Smith, Burges Truesdell, Charles Chandiler. If there were any others among the male members their names have escaped my memory. The wives of males named were all members. An effort was at once made to secure subscriptions for the building of a chapel. The chapel was built by donations of labor, timber and other materials, but still there remained a debt on it that harrassed the society for a number of years. Samuel Harpending donated a lot and fifty dollars, his usual subscription. In 1835 the quarterly conference made a recommendation to liquidate the debt. This chapel was used until 1849, when it was moved off the lot and used for an academy and other purposes, and is now a part of the Casino.

A large brick church was built on the same site. It is a singular coincidence that each of the three Protestant churches have built three houses of worship. The chapel was queerly arranged, being long and narrow, with galleries on two sides and one end, a single aisle running from the door to the altar, with long benches running from the aisle to the wall. The aisle separated the sexes, the men and women sitting on different sides. This was at the time the custom in all the churches. The benches were not ornamented, but for comfort were an improvement over pews of the churches of the times and the other churches of the village.

Among the conspicuous and active members who came into the church in those early days were David Smith, Lewis Millard, Loren Barnes and James Wright, and afterward William McLean. These with

the older members formed a band of earnest workers. The church began to be heard from the first, and its meetings both for preaching and prayer were largely attended, and the church soon became a power in the village.

The preaching was "served" by circuit preachers. These preachers were hard workers and poorly paid. Three sermons on Sunday, with a ride of miles between their appointments, were their usual work. A few specimens will illustrate how small was the amount paid for their services. The circuit was very large, covering most of Yates County, and parts of Steuben and Schuyler. The three ministers received that year (1826) \$231.71. The succeeding year Abner Chase was still presiding elder, and Dennison Smith and Nathan B. Dalson were the circuit preachers and received \$345.56 for this year.

In 1830-31 R. M. Everts and C. Story served the circuit and received for their services \$388.72, including presiding elder's claims. Who remembers the Methodist circuit preachers of olden times? There was a tacit regulation in their dress and equipage. The sulky, the clerical coat, usually of indigo-blue broadcloth, the white neck cloth, and summer or winter the inevitable tall white beaver hat. They always drove fine horses, and it was generally understood that the circuit preachers were good judges of horse-flesh. There have been greater preachers than those poorly paid ministers of the circuit, but the list of names is one that any church might be proud to recognize. Some of them became eminent in their denomination. Many of the churches for the first few years had a hard struggle for existence, and had it not been for the fidelity and devotion of the early members would have perished in their infancy. The circuit system was good for those early times, but the country has outgrown it, and except in newly settled portions it has gone into disuse. The name of Abner Chase often appears in the early history of the church. He honored the office of presiding elder for two or more terms. His record is one of fidelity and confidence—fidelity on his part to his duties and obligations to his church, and confidence on the part of those over whom he presided. Outside the church he was respected and revered for his sterling worth.

On all the great moral questions of the times the Methodist Church has been on the right side. Early in its history stringent temperance

resolutions were passed, and it was strongly anti-slavery. The building of the last church gave it an impetus and its future looks brighter than ever before.

The great religious awakening of the century occurred in the years 1831-32. Never since the times when Wesley and Whitfield preached repentance throughout the length and breadth of the land, has there been anything comparable to it in extent and interest. In the years mentioned Rev. Charles G. Finney (afterward president of the Oberlin College) preached and held revival meetings in this and adjoining States. The interest created by those meetings spread and widened until it reached the smaller villages, the hamlets, and the school districts. The additions to the churches during those years were numbered by thousands.

In the fall or early winter of 1832 there was held in what is now Dundee, then Plainville or Harpending's Corners, the first "protracted meeting." My recollection is that the meeting was projected by the Methodists, and after its commencement the Baptists joined and made it a union meeting, or it may have been union from the commencement. It was held in the Baptist Church. The Methodists were represented by their circuit preacher, the Rev. W. Jones, and the Rev. Dr. Comstock, of Trumansburg, and the Baptists by their pastor, Rev. E. W. Martin, and the Rev. Joseph Sheardown, an evangelist of considerable local fame. The meeting was continued twenty-two days, and the converts numbered considerably more than 100. As a result of these meetings the churches received numerous additions, and from the converts and others the first Methodist class was formed.

It was during the progress of these meetings that Jacob Hackett put in an appearance. During the afternoon service, and while the Rev. William Green was preaching, Hackett entered the church on the west side, and passing half way up the aisle, halted, and pointing his finger at the preacher said in a loud voice: "I, Jake Hackett, the second man in the Trinity, command you to come down, you d—— rascal." There was a great commotion for a few minutes. He was soon ejected and the services went on. The next morning Hackett appeared on the street in a perfectly nude state—the costume of Eden before the fig-leaf era was no more scanty than was his. He had started for the church,

but was soon captured and returned to his home. From this time he went from bad to worse until it became necessary to confine him with straight-jacket and chain.

Having introduced Hackett I think I will give him a chapter, thinking his strange life and its tragic ending may interest the reader. Sometime in his early career John Shoemaker built a fine dwelling on the farm now owned by the Raplee's, half a mile west of Hillside Cemetery. The house was completed and ready to be occupied, when, on a dark night, it was burned to the ground. The fire was evidently incendiary, and suspicion rested on Hackett, but there was no proof of his guilt. There was the usual nine days wonderment, and as years passed the circumstance was nearly forgotten.

Hackett was easily wrought upon religiously, and at a funeral some years after the burning, while the services were progressing, he arose in the congregation and made confession that he caused the burning of Shoemaker's house, and afterward deeded him fifty acres of timberland in restitution. Sometime subsequent to the burning Hackett built a saw mill on Big Stream, half a mile west of the Raplee mills. Whatever he attempted was always well done, and the mill was no exception. The building of this mill was a pet scheme. It was his pride to make it the best mill on the stream. The mill was finished, but before it was started there came a flood and carried away the dam. The dam was rebuilt in the most substantial manner. Nothing that could give it stability was omitted. Standing on the dam after it was finished, and raising his arm, Hackett defied God, man, or the devil to tear it away. It was a strange coincidence that while returning to his home, on the evening of that same day, a heavy rain set in and before the next morning the dam was washed out. It was never rebuilt. The wheels of that mill never made a revolution. Year after year, for half a century, it rusted and rotted and went to ruin; piece by piece, it fell into the stream and was carried away by the current, until now not a vestige remains. It was said that Hackett never visited the spot after his dam was destroyed. Whether this was truth or romance I do not know. Later in life Hackett purchased the Crosman farm in "Beartown" now owned by Mr. Phillips. On this farm he spent his last days. Caleb Cowing bought an adjoining farm. They were cousins and came from



Massachusetts, and traveled together on foot the 200 miles between Old Rochester and Canandaigua. They should have lived peaceful lives, which they did not. A dispute soon arose between them regarding the disposition of the surface water that in rainy times overflowed parts of their farms. The neighbors said that in their disputes Hackett was in the right. Frequent disputes occurred, and there was bad blood between the parties. A meeting to settle the difficulties was arranged. It was held in a school-house located on the line between their farms. It was a strange meeting. In the darkness of a November night they met; no witnesses were present; high words were heard by persons passing by the place; criminations and recriminations. Cowing was cool, crafty, and exasperating. Hackett impulsive, wild, and turbulent. Cowing aggravated his opponent in every possible manner. Hackett raged, stormed, and blasphemed. Cowing afterward said that Hackett offered to fight it out to the death. The proposition was declined. At that argument Hackett would have had his opponent at an advantage. The meeting continued until well in the night, when they parted. The next morning they met and quarrelled. It was their last meeting. They both returned to their homes. Hackett sat down to his morning meal, but before he tasted of food fell forward on the table a corpse. Hackett was not all bad. In his dealings he was just, a good neighbor, and very kind and benevolent to the poor.

These papers have treated of the formation of the churches. The results of that period may be of sufficient importance to warrant a few lines, more or less, to be added to those already written. Who would have ventured the prediction on New Year's day of 1885, that on New Year's day of 1888 there would have been built within three years four beautiful churches, at an aggregate cost of \$40,000, and that three good buildings of the same kind would have been demolished to make room for new and better ones. The Rev. William Tracy commenced his labors as pastor of the Presbyterian Church eight years ago, with a membership of sixty-five. The church had then been organized fifty-two years. During his pastorate of four years there were added ninety members. The number at the time of his resignation was 147, after deducting for deaths and removals nearly one and one-half of the original number. There was but one communion while he was pastor, in

which there was no addition. Mr. Tracy was followed by Rev. Stanley B. Roberts four years ago, who has just closed his pastorate and removed to Utica. During Mr. Roberts's labors there were added 110. The pulpit is now supplied by their new pastor, the Rev. Augustus Frederick.

Mr. Hungate closed his four years' pastorate with the Baptist Church and accepted a call from the Baptist Church of Hornellsville. Mr. Hungate's labors were acceptable to his people and his removal was very much regretted. Within the past eight years the Methodist Episcopal Church has had phenomenal additions, and the other churches report satisfactory gains.

The Catholic Church has been organized about twelve years. It numbers about 125 members. Service is held once in three weeks. Father Eugene Pagani, the priest, is very popular with his church, and has made hosts of friends outside of his own pastorate. At the present time he is under treatment for disease of the eyes, which has nearly deprived him of sight. All who know him wish him a speedy recovery.

The Olivet Baptist Church was organized in 1884. The Rev. R. Kocher was pastor four years and was succeeded by Rev. D. T. Van Doren, May, 1888, to September, 1890; Rev. N. C. Hill, from October, 1890, to February, 1891. The church edifice was built in 1885-86, and dedicated in 1886. The church has had a healthy growth up to the present time. Joseph Taylor, a licentiate and student of Cook's Academy, has supplied the pulpit since May last.

*Glenora*—Glenora is beautifully situated on the west shore of Seneca Lake. The banks of the lake rise abruptly to a height of 200 feet or more. The Northern Central Railroad bridge spans the chasm made by Big Stream at that dizzy height. The mercantile business is represented by one store, and the manufactures by a flouring-mill, saw-mill and a large factory manufacturing grape and other fruit baskets. There is a "Union hall" for the accommodation of religious gatherings and other purposes. The village was formerly called Big Stream Point, and was a place of business importance. Larmon G. Townsend, an energetic merchant, controlled the mercantile business of the hamlet. He came from New Haven, Conn., and commenced business as a merchant. He soon enlarged his sphere, taking in the grain and produce business, and

finally became owner of the flouring and saw-mill and a woolen factory. The business was too much for his capital, and like most business too much extended ended disastrously. The village has of late years become a summer resort. Major Budd's summer hotel is always well patronized, and there are several cottages rented or occupied by owners.

*Rock Stream.*—The village of Rock Stream is located in the extreme southern limit of the town of Starkey. It has two stores, two churches, Christian and Presbyterian, and a variety of mechanics. It has been a place of considerable business importance. It was first known as Hurd's Corners, from a family of that name, early settlers. The Hathaway families are among the older families. Gilbert Hathaway was a large land owner, and kept a public house for many years.

Mr. C. W. Barnes was for many years a merchant at Rock Stream and carried on a large business in merchandise and country produce. Mr. Barnes was the senior partner in the firm of Barnes & Sharp, which was dissolved many years ago. Alonzo Simmons, a very successful merchant, amassed a handsome fortune here, and retired to Reading Center in 1843. The village is located in one of the finest sections of farming land in the State, and has the Northern Central Railroad on the east and the Syracuse, Geneva & Corning on the west.

*Reminiscences.*—Under a pile of rubbish in the southwest corner of an old "grave-yard," now included in the public school lot, with nothing to mark the place, lie the remains of Isaac Andrews, private secretary to Gen. George Washington during the war for Independence. Mr. Andrews drew the forms of the pay rolls used by General Washington, and which I have been informed are still used in the army. Mr. Andrews was by profession a teacher and surveyor. Over his grave the wagons rumble carrying supplies of fuel, etc., to the public school, and the children innocently and unknowingly pursue their noisy sports. Mr. Andrews was a scholar and Christian, and a gentleman. He was also a Mason. His funeral was the first Masonic funeral held in the town and was largely attended.

Gen. Timothy Hurd was a captain of militia in the War of 1812, and with his company (or with as many as he could persuade to go over), crossed the Niagara River into Canada. He was later elected brigadier.

dier-general of militia. He settled in Eddytown, built himself a large dwelling, and became one of the leading men in the Methodist Episcopal Church and in the town. He built a saw-mill in 1809 on Big Stream south of Eddytown, and later a grist-mill. It is claimed that his was the first saw-mill on the stream. Isaac Stark's was senior one year. His family occupied a very high social position. Leveret Gabriel, a boy, came from Vermont with General Hurd, and afterward settled south of Eddytown.

Stephen Reeder and his brother-in-law, Joshua Tuthill, bought 360 acres of land at Starkey Corners and divided it equally between them, Tuthill taking the north half and Reeder the south. Josiah Reeder came at the same time, 1811, and located on fifty acres in Eddytown, on the northwest corner of the Dundee road.

Henry Schenck sold to Teval Swarts the farm now owned by William C. Swarts, one and one-half miles north of Dundee. The farm contains 107 acres, consideration \$900. The farm has remained in the Swarts family since its purchase, and is the only farm in the town that has never been incumbered with a mortgage nor has it been bequeathed. When it has changed owners it has been by purchase and sale. Teval sold it to his son Peter for a money consideration. Peter sold to his son, William C. Swarts, the present owner.

Among the prominent families who came early to the village of Dundee, then Harpending's Corners, that of Benjamin B. Beekman deserves particular mention. Mr. Beekman was one of the older citizens. He came from New York city in 1830 and stopped for a few months in Eddytown, moving to Dundee in 1831 with his wife and oldest son, Cornelius. From that time until his death he was a prominent figure in the affairs of the village. He built on contract the first Baptist "meeting-house," and erected for himself three brick blocks of stores and two dwellings, all of which remain the property of the estate except one dwelling. He was for many years a ruling elder of the Presbyterian Church, and to him and his neighbor, Baltis Titsworth, is the church indebted for many helps in time of need. Mr. Beekman's business was originally that of builder or carpenter; later in life he engaged in the furniture and undertaking business, and was very successful. His oldest son, Cornelius, emigrated to California in 1849, and is



now a resident of Jacksonville, Oregon. In 18— he ran for governor, and claims he was fairly elected, but was defrauded of his rights. Of the other sons, Abram and John have made a success of their business in Bath, N. Y., and T. Dewitt, after succeeding his father in the furniture business, sold out and is now one of the firm of F. H. Sayre & Co., hardware merchants of Dundee.

John T. Andrews has for many years been a prominent figure in Dundee. He came to the village sometime in the early forties and has resided here since. The Andrews family originally came from near the Hudson River and settled in the town of Reading in 1812. While a resident of Steuben County he held the office of justice of the peace, was elected sheriff and member of the Twenty-fifth Congress. After coming to Dundee he retired from business until 1866, when he became a partner in the firm of Martin Vosburg & Co. until 1874; since then he has not engaged in active business. At the age of eighty-eight years he is active and in appearance has many years of life before him.

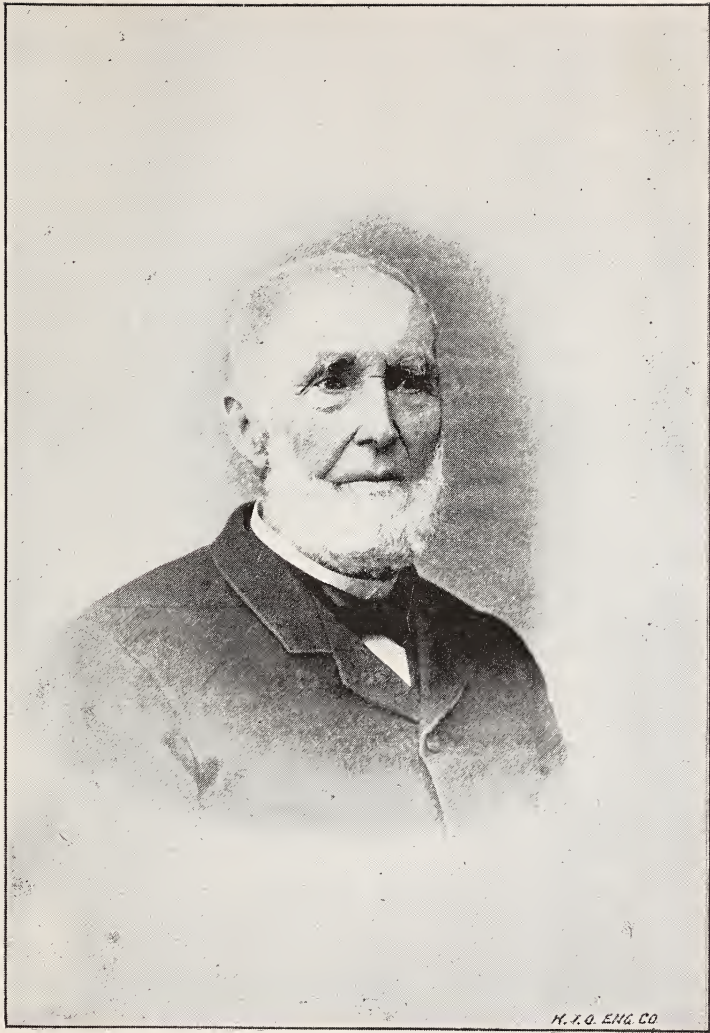
Griffin B. Hazard built a saw-mill in 1811, and a grist-mill in 1812 on Big Stream, south of Dundee. The mills, with 600 acres of land, came in possession of his son James P. Hazard, who kept them until his death, which occurred in 1872. James Hazard invested a large amount in the building of a mill that was never finished and was a total loss.

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## CHAPTER XXIII.

### HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF JERUSALEM.

JERUSALEM is practically and substantially the mother of towns in Yates County. The district, sometimes called township, of Jerusalem, was organized in 1789, as one of the subdivisions of Ontario County, and included within its limits all that is now Milo, Benton and Torrey, as well as its own original territory. On the erection of Steuben County in 1796, the region or district called Bluff Point, or so much of it as lies south of the south line of township seven, was made a part



*John T. Andrews*



of the new formation ; but in 1814 an act of the Legislature annexed Bluff Point to Jerusalem, and to which it has since belonged.

In 1803 the town of Jerusalem was definitely erected, embracing township seven, second range, and so much of township seven, first range, as lay westward of Lake Keuka and lot No. 37. At or about the same time the other territory that had previously formed a part of the district of Jerusalem was organized into a town and called Vernon, afterward Snell, and finally Benton.

The town of Jerusalem, as at present constituted, is the largest of the towns of Yates County ; also it is one of the most important towns of the shire. As compared with the eastern towns of the county, Jerusalem may be called quite hilly, and in some places mountainous. Bluff Point, if standing independently, might properly be called a mountain, at least its southern extremity, but with its surroundings becomes not more than a formidable hill, elevated, at its highest point, more than 700 feet above Lake Keuka. Rose Hill in Jerusalem is 572 feet above the lake, while the county poor-house is 634 feet higher than the lake. The highest general elevation in the town is on the west side near Italy, from whence there is a gradual descent as one travels eastward toward the West Branch inlet. Still further east is another though lesser rise of land, the summit of which is about two miles from the lake. It will be seen, therefore, that Jerusalem possesses superior natural drainage advantages. At the same time the town is exceedingly well watered, as it has more lake frontage than any town in the county, not even excepting Milo. A considerable depression in the surface is noticeable in the northeast part of the town, the locality being designated by the name of Shearman's Hollow.

Shearman's Hollow possibly includes historic ground, for it is alleged that in the southeast corner of lot 48, near the school-house site, are the remains of an old fort ; and that this fort was neither American, Indian or French in its construction. Therefore, if such allegations are true, the fort, or whatever may have been its character, was undoubtedly of pre historic origin. But there have not been discovered relics to show whether the fortification was the work of the mound-builders or some other ancient race. But as this is a subject of entire speculation, and can only be treated facetiously, it might more properly be passed and remain a mystery.



Jerusalem, too, contends for whatever of honor attaches from the fact that Red Jacket, the famous Seneca chief, first saw the light of day on the shores of Keuka Lake, at a point near the village of Branchport. But the people of a town in Seneca have very recently, in 1891, erected a monument to the memory of Red Jacket, and on the stone is recorded the fact that the celebrated warrior was born very near the spot on which it stands. It may be said, however, that the claims of Jerusalem to the place of birth of the chief were and are founded on the statements made by himself on the occasion of one of his speeches at Geneva. But even this is not an important question, and whatever may be the truth it will neither benefit or injure the people of Jerusalem one single whit.

Township seven of the second range formed a part of the vast Phelps and Gorham purchase, a full history and description of which may be found among the general chapters of this work. The proprietors, Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham, sold township seven, second range, to Thomas Hathaway and Benedict Robinson in 1789, but not until the following year was the deed executed. In 1790 the town was surveyed into lots under the direction of Noah Guernsey, and it was found that the measurements, both north and south, overran six miles square.

Hathaway and Robinson purchased this township that it might be made the permanent abiding place of the Public Universal Friend, and that on the lands surrounding her home there might be built up dwelling places and farms for those of her followers who remained faithful and true to her leadership and teachings. Such seems to be the understanding of those best informed concerning the Friend's affairs, although at the time the purchase was made she had not been to the vicinity of the New Jerusalem, but was still at and near Philadelphia. If this be true, then the settlement and colony at Hopeton and on Seneca Lake were but temporary. It is not understood, either, that there was as yet any disturbance or dissension in the Friend's society. But whatever motive may have prompted the Friend to cause the purchase of the town to be made cannot now be well explained, but from what was done we may suppose that she was looking carefully into the future of herself and her society. At all events it is generally understood that the purchase was made at her solicitation and under her ad-

vice. But the worthy proprietors found themselves unable to pay the consideration money for the whole township, whereupon they reconveyed to their grantors a strip about two miles in width and extending across the south part of the town. This tract contained some seven thousand acres of land. It passed through a number of ownerships and finally came into the possession of Captain John Beddoe, after which it was ever known as the Beddoe Tract.

On the west side of the town, Hathaway and Robinson conveyed a strip of land extending from the north line of the Beddoe Tract to the north line of the township to William Carter as grantee, but the latter also appears to have defaulted in his payment, as he conveyed back the strip, embracing 4,000 acres, to Phelps and Gorham. This tract, after passing through several owners, was finally sold on foreclosure of mortgage held by the State of Connecticut. It was bought in by Gideon Granger, of Canandaigua, who perfected the title to the tract and afterward, June 30, 1816, sold it to Henry and Oren Green for \$12,000, or \$4.00 per acre, and this became thenceforth known as the Green Tract. The rest of the lands of the town appear to have been retained by Thomas Hathaway and Benedict Robinson for the use of the Friend and her society. However, it appears that Thomas Hathaway sold or conveyed his interest in the township to his associate, Benedict Robinson, and the latter appears to have been the principal actor in the matter of after transfers. Commencing in 1792, the Friend made frequent purchases of lots and parcels of land in township seven, so that when her acquisitions were completed she was the possessor of 4,480 acres of land in the town, but not in her own name. According to her belief and holding she could not hold real or other property in her own name and right, or at least she would not do so, and the conveyances were made to one of her trusted lieutenants, generally Sarah Richards, but occasionally Rachel Malin, each of whom held the property in trust for the Friend.

In 1791 the Friend and Sarah Richards made a selection of land in the town upon which should be erected her domicile and other buildings for a permanent residence. They selected a tract in the vale of the Brook Kedron, as they were pleased to term it, and Sarah Richards directed with her own hand the improvements necessary to be made.

In 1793, after clearings had been made, some ten or twelve acres of the land were enclosed and a log house erected. But the faithful Sarah never lived to see the completion of her undertaking, for she died during the latter part of 1793.

During the spring of 1764 the Friend left the Seneca Lake place, and took up her home at the newly-built log house in Jerusalem. She was followed here by many of her former adherents, but was not subject to the intrigues of her enemies until some years later. For the poorer members of her society the Friend provided a home upon her own tract, while those of her society who were able to buy and build for themselves, did so on the lands of the town. Therefore the Universal Friend herself was a pioneer in this town, as were those of her followers who also made this an abiding place. Many, however, of her society remained at the original settlement near the lake, and never became residents of Jerusalem.

The Public Universal Friend, Jemima Wilkinson, was of course a pioneer of this town, the same as she had been in the locality and settlement on Seneca Lake. In 1790 she first came to the Genesee country and four years later she established herself permanently in the town of Jerusalem. One of the general chapters of this volume has narrated at length concerning the Friend, her life and works, in view of which nothing further need be said in this place.

*Early Settlement in Jerusalem.*—So far as they were able and so far as they considered it a prudent measure, the Friend and her followers settled her lands in the town with none but members of her society. Still there were localities which the Friend did not control, and therefore such sections were settled by whomsoever saw fit to purchase. And even in the Friend's society, after the lapse of not many years, there grew such differences and dissensions, that strangers to her doctrines at last obtained a foothold within the lands she aimed to control in ownership and occupancy.

The first settlers in district No. 1 of the town of Jerusalem were as follows: The Friend and her family, consisting of Rachel, Margaret, and Elijah Malin, Samuel Doolittle, Solomon Ingraham, Mary Hopkins, Mary Bean, and Chloe, a colored woman; Elnathan Botsford's family consisted of himself and his children, Lucy, Sarah, Benajah, Mary, El-



nathan, jr., and Ruth ; Achilles Comstock, Sarah, his wife, and their children, Alpha, Martha and Israel ; Ezekiel Shearman, his wife and children, Isaac, John and Bartleson ; Asahel and Anna Stone, and their children, Aurelia, Mary and Asahel, jr. ; Samuel Barnes and wife, and their children, Elizur, Julius, Samuel and Henry ; Parmalee Barnes and wife ; Amos Guernsey and John, his son ; and Clarissa, his niece ; Castle Dains and wife, and children, Abel, Saloma, Anna and Simeon ; Ephraim Dains and family ; Jonathan Davis and family ; Benjamin Durham and family ; Daniel Brown, wife and two sons, Daniel and George ; Elizur and Nathaniel Ingraham, and their families ; Reuben and Mary Luther, and Susanna Spencer, Phebe Cogswell, Mary Holmes, Elizabeth Kinyon, Lucy Brown, Martha Reynolds, Hannah Baldwin, Patience Allen, Mary and Sarah Briggs, and Ephraim, Isaac and Elizabeth Kinney.

One of the prominent members of the Friend's society was Ezekiel Shearman, who, in his zeal to serve his leader, acted as one of the committee to visit the Genesee country in 1786, for the purpose of selecting a site for a home for the society. Mr. Shearman was a Rhode Islander, and was one of the first to come to the region of the New Jerusalem and there make a home. Soon after coming, or in 1790, he married the widow of John Bartleson, the latter a follower of the Friend from Pennsylvania. In 1794 Mr. Shearman moved to Jerusalem and located on lot 47. He lived and died in the town, dying in 1824, and his wife in 1843. They had three children : Isaac, born in 1792 ; John, who died young ; and Bartleson, born in 1797, who became one of the leading men of the town of Jerusalem, and died at an advanced age.

Daniel and Anna Brown, husband and wife, and their sons, Daniel, George and Russell, were among the pioneers of the Friend's tract. But this family became alienated from the Friend not many years afterward. They settled on lot 5, then an almost unbroken wilderness, and with no neighbors nearer than two or three miles. By industry, perseverance and energy Daniel Brown and his sons succeeded in building up one of the best farms of the town. Daniel Brown, jr., married Lucretia Coats. He, too, became a prominent man in the town ; was justice of the peace for many years. He kept public house, called " Grandfather's House ;" also he built a distillery in the town. The



children of Daniel, jr., and Lucretia Brown were Alfred, Anna and Mary. Alfred was born in 1798, and was sheriff of the county one term; Anna, born in 1805, married Gideon Wolcott; Mary, born in 1818, became the wife of Mordecai Ogden.

George Brown, son of Daniel, the pioneer, became the owner of 600 acres on the east side of the Beddoe tract, including the site of the village of Branchport. George Brown was also prominent in the affairs of Jerusalem; was several terms its supervisor. His children were Theda, Harriet and John R. Brown.

Jonathan Davis came to the New Jerusalem in 1792, and died in the County of Yates in 1870. His first residence was at the little settlement on Seneca Lake, but after a few years he returned to Philadelphia, and there married, in 1801, Rachel Updegraff. They then returned to this region, living near the lake for a short time, and then locating in Jerusalem, on land purchased from the pioneer, Jacob Wagener. Here the parents lived and died. Their children were Mary, Isaiah, Leah and Lydia.

Thomas Hathaway, for many years a leading and influential member of the Friend's society, and one of the original purchasers of the town of Jerusalem, or No. seven, range two, was a native of Massachusetts, and became a follower of the Friend in 1784. He brought to the New Jerusalem four children: Thomas, Mary, Elizabeth and Gilbert. Thomas Hathaway sold a large share of his interest in the town to William Carter. He died in 1798, aged sixty-six years.

Elnathan Botsford was also one of the more influential of the Friend's followers. His wife was Lucy Stone, by whom he had six children: Benajah, Sarah, Mary, Lucy, Ruth and Elnathan. Elnathan Botsford, the pioneer, died in Jerusalem at the age of eighty-eight. Many descendants of this respected old family are still residents of the county.

In 1807 John Race and his wife left the eastern part of the State and located in Jerusalem, a few miles up the lake from Penn Yan, on lot 50, now the Purdy place. John Race was known throughout the country as a famous hunter and fisherman; withal he was a good farmer. He had seven children: William, Jonathan, Joseph, Catharine, John H., Phebe and Andrew J.

Samuel Davis, son of Malachi Davis, a pioneer Friend, settled in Je-

rusalem in 1805, on lot 42. He was the shingle-maker for the locality, and laid the foundation of his success in that calling. His children were Rachel, Rebecca, Joseph, Jesse, Eliza, George W. and Lydia Ann. The surname, Davis, has a number of representatives now in the town.

Benjamin Durham, the millwright, was among the pioneers of Jerusalem. He was married to Elizabeth Dains, daughter of Castle Dains, by Benedict Robinson. He bought land of Mr. Robinson, on lot 17, and made his home there in 1799. The children of Benjamin and Elizabeth Durham were Ann, Rebecca, George, John, James, Joanna, Abel, Albert and Elizabeth. After the death of his wife, Mr. Durham, in 1818, married Mary Bates, of Potter, by whom these children were born: Lucy C., Myron H., Benjamin, Mary C. and Charles M.

Achilles Comstock and his wife Rachel, the daughter of the senior Elnathan Botsford, with their three children, Israel, Apphi and Martha, became residents of Jerusalem in 1799, having previously lived at the settlement near Seneca Lake. The lands bought for them were on the north side of the Friend's estate, and embraced 400 acres. Achilles was a Methodist, while his wife was one of the Friend's society. He died in 1832, and his wife in 1845.

Henry Larzelere was the youngest child of Daniel and Elizabeth Larzelere, and was born in 1798 at Hopeton, in the Friend's settlement. He became a resident of Jerusalem by being adopted into the family of Elijah Botsford upon the death of his mother. He became a hotel, or public-house, keeper in 1826, in the locality in which he lived for many years thereafter, and known as Larzelere's Hollow. His wife was Rebecca Durham, who bore him two children, Sarah A., who married Erastus Cole, and William B., whose wife was Sarah A. Sheppard.

Elizabeth Kinney was a native of Connecticut. She was a widow at the time of her coming to the New Jerusalem, but her devotion to the Friend caused her to follow here, bringing her children, who were Samuel, Isaac, Ephraim, Statira and Mary. They lived for a time near Seneca Lake, but afterward moved to Jerusalem. Samuel, the eldest child, made the first clearing on the site of the Poor-House farm.

Samuel Hartwell married Elizabeth Wilkinson, sister of the Friend. Their settlement was made first in Benton, from whence they moved to Canada, but were obliged to leave the province during the second war

with Great Britain. They came to Jerusalem and lived for a time, and then left the country.

Samuel Clark and wife first settled on lot 56, in what was township seven, first range, but which became a part of Jerusalem. His title to the land failed, thus losing him his farm, after which the family located on lot 41. Mr. Clark settled in the town in 1799. His children were Emma, Abigail, Laura, Ezekiel, Aurilla and Sally. Descendants of this family still live in the town.

Sanford Coats and Jerusha (Miner) Coats were natives of Connecticut, and came with their five children to Jerusalem in 1817. This family name is still well represented in the town. The children of Sanford and Jerusha were Gilbert, Anner, Sidney, William S., Susan A., Lucretia, John L., Russell and Miner.

Erastus Cole and family settled in Jerusalem at Sabintown, so called, in 1817. He died in 1860, and his wife five years afterward. Their children were Hiram, Wolcott, Elizabeth, Ardelia, Mary, Erastus and Harris. Joseph Cole and his family came to the town at an early day, purchasing lands on the Benedict Robinson tract. The children of Joseph and Hannah Cole were Allen, John, Laura, Lydia, Simeon, Maria, Peleg, Sarah, Thomas and Jane.

The surname Purdy stands not only for pioneership, but for high respectability in Jerusalem. The pioneer of the family in the town was John Purdy, a native of this State, and his wife was Esther Barton. They had a large family of children before coming to this locality, but not all the children came to Yates County. John Purdy, his son Francis, and daughter Mary, with their families, located in the southwest part of the town, on the Green Tract, at what was called Lightning Corners. The children of John Purdy, from whom have descended the Purdy families of the town to-day, were Abijah, Mary, Elizabeth, Isaac, Joshua, Ann, Francis, Hannah, Abigail and Mariam.

John and Elizabeth Merritt, formerly of Armenia, Dutchess County, and their children came to Jerusalem in 1827. He died there in 1850, and his wife seven years later. Their children were Chauncey, Sarah A., Eliza, Emma J., Rensselaer, John, Alanson and La Fayette.

William Henry Stewart, a Scotch sea captain of many years' experience, and his wife, settled in this town in 1817, on lot 50. The wife





*Lafayette Merritt*





died in 1835. Their children were Ann E., Sarah W., Hannah, Abbie, Bethulia, Rachel and Charlotte. For his second wife Captain Merritt married Emma J. Merritt, who bore him six children: John W., Eliza, William, George B., Belle and Saunders C.

Samuel Hartshorn, who was a native of Amherst, Mass., born in 1772, married Sarah Genung, of Otsego County, N. Y., but a native of New Jersey. They came to Yates County in 1817, settling first in Barrington, but five years later moving to Jerusalem, on lot 68. Samuel, the pioneer, died in 1854, and his wife in 1863. They had six children, as follows: Hiley, Betsey, Abigail, William W., Isaac W. and James H. Of one of this family of children, Isaac W. Hartshorn, will be found an extended mention in the biographical department of this work.

Jonathan Sisson was the son of George Sisson, the latter a prominent Friend. Jonathan served in Captain Remer's Benton company during a part of the War of 1812-15. In 1827 he and his family became residents of Jerusalem. His wife was Catharine Vosbinder. Their children were William, George, John, David, Harrison and Bethany.

Robert M. Boyd was a native of Pennsylvania, and a pioneer in the Genesee country, having come to Bath in 1799. He was a blacksmith, and worked at his trade in various places, among them at Hopeton. Here he married Rebecca Woodhull, in 1804. In 1824 the family moved to Jerusalem, where, in 1839, Mr. Boyd died. The children of Robert and Rebecca Boyd were Alexander M., Tompkins W., Margaret, Robert M., Martha R., Arabella R. and Mary E.

In 1816 Thomas Sutton and family settled in Jerusalem, on lot 56. His wife was Letitia Haines. Their children were Jane, Daniel, John, Thomas C., Lewis, William, Reuben, Albert, Hannah, Ann and Emeline.

Elljah Townsend was a pioneer in Jerusalem, having made his settlement therein as early as 1793, and in the locality that has for many years been known as Kinney's Corners. Mr. Townsend was a blacksmith by trade, but found profitable employment in making cow-bells for other settlers before line and division fences kept cattle in bounds. Elijah Townsend had nine children, viz.: Uriah, Hezekiah, Mary, Henry, Isaac, Phebe, Martha, Sarah and Lydia.

Alexander Anderson was a pioneer on Bluff Point, where he settled

in 1813, but later moved to Kinney's Corners, originally called Fox's Corners. He had a large family of children: Beecher, Rachel, Sarah, Hison, John, Nancy, Augustine, Mary Ann, Dow F. and Susan; but the name is not now a common one in the town.

John Moore came to the town in 1815, married the daughter of John Beal, and settled about four miles from Kinney's Corners, on Bluff Point. Eight children were born to them, viz.: Mary Ann, Phebe A., Beal, Lydia, Obera, Jane E., Sabra B., and George D.

The family of Benjamin Waite settled on Bluff Point about 1816, and there both he and his wife died. Their children were Polly, Ray, Alfred, Albert, William, Stephen, Eliza, and Mercy.

David Thomas and family were also early on the Point, but afterward moved to Shearman's Hollow. The children of this family were Frank, Eliza, Emily, Mary Ann, Sarah, David and Loring.

Ira Smith was a prominent man in Jerusalem, and reared a somewhat prominent family; but he was not a pioneer, having come to the town in 1834. His children were Morgan, Rosalinda, Mary, Jane M., Eben S., William H., Eleanor and Martha.

Benajah Andruss was the third settler on Bluff Point, coming there with his family in 1813. His wife was Abigail Nash, by whom he had ten children: James, Zabina C., Ora, Jason, Henry G., Rossen, Esther, Nancy, Emily and Almira.

John N. Rose was a Virginian, born in 1789. He was the son of Robert Selden and Jane (Lawson) Rose, and the second of their seven children. Mr. Rose purchased 1,050 acres of the Beddoe Tract, all that part of it lying east of the west branch of Lake Keuka, and here he made his home. His wife, whom he married in 1829, was Jane E. Macomb, niece of General Macomb, the hero of Plattsburg. Mr. Rose erected the stone mansion in 1838. Henry Rose was a younger brother of John N. Rose, and his wife was Sarah L. Macomb. They were married in 1832, and four years later took up their abode in Jerusalem.

Robert S. Rose was the son of Robert L. Rose, brother to John N. and Henry. He purchased land in this town from his uncle, amounting to 362 acres of the homestead tract. He married Frances T. Cammann, of New York city, who bore him these children: Oswald J., Cammann, Robert L., Edward N., Frederick D., George S., Catharine N. M., and John Henry.



Peter H. Bitley





Solomon D. Weaver was a native of Saratoga County, born in 1797. He came to Penn Yan when a youth and engaged in a mill. Later he became proprietor of several industries. In 1832 he bought a part of the Beddoe Tract and moved to Branchport, where he died. His wife was Elizabeth Gamby, by whom he had five children: Myron H., Llewellyn J., Sherrel S., George S. and Helen E. His wife died in 1862, after which Solomon D. Weaver married Mrs. Julia L. Righter.

Dr. Wynans Bush married Ann Loomis in 1824. In 1832 they moved to Branchport from Ontario County. Their children were Elliot M., Henry M., Irene, Caroline, Ellen, Harlem P., Frances, Robert P., and Julia G.

Peter H. Bitley was one of the most extensive timber and lumber manufacturers that ever came into Yates County. He first operated in Jerusalem as early as 1833, then as an employee, and afterward as proprietor. In 1839 he married Mary J. Laird, of Branchport. They had one child, Mary E. Bitley, also one by adoption, Ella Rozelle.

*The Green Tract.*—On one of the earlier pages of the present chapter mention has been made of the fact that there were conveyed off the west side of Jerusalem, extending from the Beddoe Tract north to the north line of the town, three tiers of lots, which, with lot 56 of Guernsey's survey, were thereafter known as the Green Tract. This tract comprised over 4,000 acres, and was purchased by Henry and Oren Green for the sum of \$12,000. John, Clark and Henry Green, sons of Capt. Henry Green, one of the proprietors, and Ira, son of Hezekiah Green, the latter a brother of Capt. Henry Green, all became settlers on the tract. Clark Green settled on lot 25. Ira Green kept a tavern on lot 11. John Green settled south of Ira. Benjamin Stoddard settled on lot 12 of the Green Tract; was a pioneer thereon in 1818. Joseph Wright and his wife Lucy (Woods) Wright, settled on lot 27 of the tract in 1817. In 1818 David Turner, wife and family, formerly of Benton, settled on lot 14. Their children were Reuben, Maria, Hannah, Catharine, Susan M., Sarah Ann and David H.

In 1826 Jonathan Welden, an early settler on the tract, sold his land on lot 24, to Nathan G. Benedict, who with his family became settlers thereon. In 1832 Rowland Champlin, jr., located on lot 10 of the Green Tract. In 1817 John T. Almy, from Benton, settled on lot 19. The

family of Samuel P. Carvey located on lot 18 in 1825. Nathan Harris was the original settler on lot 10, the date being 1819. His wife was Nancy Benton, by whom he had ten children: John B., Henry, Marcia, Otis, Sally, Nathan, Maria, James K., and Charlotte. William Thrall, a captain in the Revolution, was the first settler on lot 7. Silas Cook located on lot 10; Zadoch Bass on 27; Benjamin and William Lafler on lot 11; Joseph Gay on 8.

In the same connection there may also be mentioned the names of other settlers on the same tract, though data concerning some of them are meagre and unreliable. They were Enoch Remington, William Simmons, David Conley, Seth Hanchett, John Purdy, William Folsom, Henry Dennis, Ruel Rogers, Horton Rounds, David Page, Lewis Carvey, Jacob Coddington, Benjamin Washburn, Jacob Youngs, Edmund Robinson, Samuel Weldon, Platt Kinney, John Blakeman, Peter Simmons, William Paul, Thomas B. Smith, each of whom was a pioneer of more or less prominence, and each of whom was in some manner identified with the early history of the town, its growth, development and prosperity.

One of the early settlers in the town was Ebenezer Shattuck, who located on lot 56 of the Guernsey survey in 1816. His children were Ebenezer, Sewall, Lucy, Mahala, Hepzibah, Aaron W., George W., Rebecca and Clarissa.

*The Beddoe Tract.*—As has been narrated in a preceding portion of the present chapter, the district of territory in Jerusalem commonly known as the Beddoe Tract, was so named after its owner and proprietor, Capt. John Beddoe. The tract was purchased by him from John Johnson, an Englishman, and was acquired by the latter from James Wadsworth, the grantee of Oliver Phelps. Seven thousand acres was the extent of the tract, and it extended from the west side of the town along its southern border to the lake. Two thousand acres on the lake were taken off, and the remainder was surveyed into 160-acre lots and numbered consecutively from one to thirty-two.

John Beddoe was a Welshman by birth, and came directly to Jerusalem from the old country in 1798. He left his family at Geneva and came to the tract with help sufficient to make rapid and substantial progress in clearing and improving the land and providing a place of abode

for himself and his family. The wife of Captain Beddoe was Catharine James, by whom he had three children: John S., Charlotte H. and Lynham J. Capt. John Beddoe died in 1835, his wife in 1815.

Albert R. Cowing is said to have been the first permanent settler on the Beddoe 5,000 acre tract, the date of his location being given as 1825. William Runner moved in during the same year and settled on the south side. John Runner, the father of William, came in 1826. Ezra Loomis moved on the tract in 1826. John Coleman came in from Benton the same year. Henry Nutt also came in 1826, settling on lot 30. Benjamin Rogers, from Seneca, and Morris Ross also settled on the tract in 1826. Meli Todd, from Starkey, who married the daughter of pioneer William Ovenshire, of Barrington, located on the tract in 1830. Rochester Hurd moved from Starkey to Jerusalem in 1826, and settled on Beddoe Tract. James Royce, from the same town, came one year later. Rufus Henderson, also from Starkey, came in 1827. Dexter Lamb came from Wayne in 1826. John Corwin, a pioneer of Starkey, left that town and settled on the tract in 1826, on lot 27.

Peter D. Stever, the ancestor of a numerous family in the town, was one of the prominent, though possibly not early pioneers of the Beddoe Tract, his settlement dating in 1830. Seven years later he married Ann Baker. Their children were Hannah, Ruth, Franklin, Hester, Oscar, David, Cecelia, David, Annette, and Rupert. James Stever, brother to Peter, came in the town in 1832. His wife was Desire Goodsell, by whom these children were born: Leonard, Peter, Elizabeth, George, Joseph and Jennie.

James Taylor and family came to the tract in 1829, and ultimately became owners of the the Beddoe homestead. Among his children were Mary, John, William D., James L., Thomas, Charles, Susanna and Eleanor E.

Among the other early families in the town, who may be mentioned without reference to particular location, was that of Judah Chase, who came to Bluff Point in 1820. Later he moved to the west part of the town and there died. His children were John, William, Judah, Ira, Christopher C., Elias, Levi, Hannah and Jane.

Amos Perry was an early comer to the town. He married here, in 1823, Abigail Clark, by whom he had six children: Samuel, Alma,



Samantha, Mary J., Ezekiel C. and Elizabeth. Wallace, Daniel and Thomas Benedict came to Jerusalem in 1816, and settled on lot 56.

Other than have been mentioned early settlers on Bluff Point were Anthony Rouse, 1813; Timothy Rouse, 1815; Elnathan Finch, 1812; the Dykemans, father and son; Howland Hemphill, Jared and Nathan Herrick, and George Heck.

Sabintown was the name given a settlement made on lot 58, during or about the year 1798. The residents here were Asa and Burtch Sabin, and their nephew, Hiram Sabin, and their families, and from them the locality derived its name. The pioneers of the families died many years ago, and their descendants scattered and settled in other communities, with result in the loss of the name to the town. Among the other early settlers in the vicinity of Sabintown were Gideon Burtch, Braman Burtch and Hezekiah Dayton. Zephania Briggs was the pioneer settler on lot 69, lying next west of 58, and very near the settlement called Sabintown.

Kinney's Corners was so named and called after Giles Kinney, who about 1825 was a tavern-keeper and tradesman at that point, but he was not the founder of the Corners, that honor being due to an older settler, Abraham Fox, for whom the locality was originally called Fox's Corners. Mr. Fox was landlord of the hotel at the Corners, where he dispensed good cheer, but in addition thereto he inaugurated a custom of public exhibitions at the place, such as athletic sports, horse-racing, with an occasional assembling of the local militia in their usual general training. But during later years the Corners has lost much of its former glory, a post-office, with wagon repair shop combined, an old hotel building, and the public pump, with a half dozen dwellings constituting about all there is of the place at the present time.

*Branchport.*—The pretty, pleasant and healthful little village of Branchport is situated wholly within the limits of the old Beddoe Tract. Directly its location is on elevated ground, within convenient walking distance from the west branch of Lake Keuka. It is distant from the county seat about eight miles, and the journey between these points is made by daily stage and by boat; by the latter, however, only during the warm months of the year.

Originally, the village was called *Esperanza*, a Spanish name, signi-

fyng hope ; but the staid denizens of the locality considered this cognomen rather sentimental or romantic for their quiet ways in life, and as a consequence changed the name to Branchport. In population the village amounts to not exceeding four or five hundred inhabitants, and has not materially increased in numbers or industries during the last score of years. In 1867 the village became incorporated, taking upon itself certain municipal characteristics that its local affairs might be ordered and governed independent of the township of Jerusalem, of which it forms a part.

The first movement in the direction of establishing this as a trading center and subsequent village was made in 1831, by Judge Samuel S. Ellsworth and Spencer Booth, who erected a store building at the southeast corner of the intersecting roads. Judge Ellsworth soon afterward withdrew from this store, but the business was continued by Mr. Booth until 1866. In 1832 Solomon Weaver built a hotel on the southwest corner of the cross-roads. Judge Ellsworth built a store on the northeast corner, and William D. Henry the store and dwelling on the northwest corner. The stone school-house was built in 1868, Mary Williams being the first, and Mr. Henneberg the second teacher of the village.

Thus was the village of Branchport established. From the beginning made by Ellsworth & Booth, there has been built up in later years the third village in importance in Yates County ; likewise it is one of the three incorporated villages of the shire. However interesting it might be to the reader to see here the succession of operators in the various branches of mercantile and business pursuits, those usually found in every trading center, it can hardly be done with reliable accuracy ; still, some of the earlier merchants can be called by name, among them Ellsworth & Booth, William D. Henry, Peter Youngs, sen , Lawrence & Smith, Harvy I. Andrus, Goodrich, Easton & Co., Solomon D. Weaver, Myron H. Weaver, Bradley Shearman, Frederick Parris, James H. Gamby, John Laird, Asa E. Pettengill, Peter H. Bitley, Clark Righter. Nearly all of these, during their time, were general or country merchants, keeping stocks which embraced dry goods, groceries, hardware, drugs and medicines, boots and shoes, and in fact almost every commodity incidental to average country stores. However, drugs were the special stock kept by Bush & Andrews, Elliot Bush, L. J.

Beddoe, Robert Boyd, Tomer Bros., T. B. Boyd, and James H. Gamby. Hardware dealers were James T. Durry, C. J. Hathaway, and Joel Dorman.

The present business interests of the village of Branchport may be summed up about as follows : Parris & Stever, general store ; Alfred E. Hayes, dry goods and groceries ; William Joy, general store ; Charles Bean, druggist ; David Parris as successor to Parris & Boyd, foundry, basket factory and planing-mill ; Philip Wheeler, builder, planing and matching ; Edwin Mattison, harness shop ; S. S. Ellsworth & Co., lumber, coal, lime and cement ; George S. Weaver, lumber dealer ; Jasper C. Shull, proprietor of the Branchport Hotel.

The first post-office in the town, established in 1824, called Jerusalem, was located near the ancient Havens Tavern. Nathaniel Cothern was its postmaster. He was succeeded by Henry Larzelere, who held from 1826 to 1852, when the office was discontinued. At Branchport a post-office was established in 1832, the incumbents of which have been Spencer Booth, till 1849 ; Myron H. Weaver till 1853 ; William S. Booth till 1861 ; Bradley Shearman, succeeded by Peter H. Young, and the latter by his wife, Almeda Young ; she having held the office for twenty-seven consecutive years. An office was established at Shearman's Hollow in 1841, and at Kinney's Corners (Bluff Point) in 1850.

*Ecclesiastical History.*—The oldest denomination or sect to find a foothold within the town of Jerusalem was probably that of the Society of Friends, headed by Jemima Wilkinson, or the Public Universal Friend, as she styled herself. This remarkable woman made the town her home in 1794, and her domicile was the place of meeting for her society. But this is a subject fully treated elsewhere in this work and needs no repetition here.

As was the case in many of the towns in this region, the Methodists early sowed the seed of their church in Jerusalem, the year 1793 being announced as that in which the first meetings were held, although it was not until 1838 that any effective organization was made. Prior to that the meetings were of an embryo character, consisting of class gatherings and informal worship, with an occasional regular preaching service conducted by the circuit preachers of the region. Prominent among the pioneer Methodists of the town was Uriah Townsend, a resident of

the locality called in succession Fox's and Kinney's Corners; and in the same relation may be mentioned Isaac Townsend, Peter Althizer, Stephen Bagley, Eleanor, wife of John Rice, and the wives of the persons already named. In 1838 was organized "The First Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Jerusalem," the trustees being John Dorman, William H. Decker, James Fredenburg, Robert C. Brown and Rufus Evans. At once measures were taken for the erection of a meeting house at the Corners, and the result was its construction at a cost of about \$850. The lot for the church was donated by Hixson Anderson, a pioneer merchant at Kinney's Corners. John Dorman was the first class-leader, followed by William T. Moore, Isaac Purdy, and A. J. Brown in succession.

Another class in the town was formed at Brown's Mills in 1815, Isaac Kinney being its leader, followed by Daniel Brown and Benjamin Durham. This class was maintained for many years, and finally moved to Branchport. In 1866 the organization of a society was perfected at the latter place, the first board of trustees being Solomon D. Weaver, James Gamby, Henry Larzelere, Henry W. Harris, William H. Decker, Nelson Bennett, Elias Madison, and James Spencer. The newly-formed society selected Schuyler Sutherland, Joseph Abbott, and William H. Decker as building committee. They purchased the Methodist Episcopal Church building at Nettle Valley and moved it to Branchport, where it was reconstructed and fitted up into a pleasant and commodious house of worship. The work cost about \$2,500. The pastors of the Branchport Methodist Episcopal Church have been as follows: 1866, Schuyler Sutherland; 1867, Solomon Wetzell; 1868-69, C. Dillenbeck; 1870, Philo Cowles; 1871-72, A. D. Edgar; 1873-75, J. J. Payn; 1876-78, 1883-85, R. D. Phillips; 1879, Charles Hermans; 1880-82, S. C. Hatmaker; 1886, R. N. Leak; 1887-90, J. N. Sackett, 1891, G. W. Reynolds.

The Baptist Church and society in Jerusalem dates back to the early years of the present century, and to 1815, when Elder Elnathan Finch completed an informal organization and held regular meetings in a little log church on Bluff Point. Elder Finch and his successor, Elder House, were the ministers of the church, but their labors were voluntary and without compensation.



In January, 1834, a meeting was held at Branchport for the purpose of organizing a Baptist society at that place. The result was the incorporation of the First Baptist Society of Branchport, with Erastus Cole, Benajah Andrus, William Richardson, Benjamin Runyan, Israel Herrick, and John French as trustees. Erastus Cole, John French, and Benjamin Rogers were made deacons. During the same month the society resolved to build a church, 38 by 50 feet in size, and to cost not more than \$2,000. Jacob Herrick, Benjamin Rogers, and Ezra Witter were appointed a building committee. This house stood until 1870, and was then radically remodeled and refitted, at an expense of over \$1,800. The succession of pastors of the Branchport Baptist Church has been as follows: E. D. Owen, A. B. Winchell, S. S. Haywood, William Frary, Reuben P. Lamb, Elder Mosher, Peter Colegrove, M. W. Holmes, Vincent L. Garrett, William H. Shields (supply), Daniel Delano, Levi Hicks, Vincent L. Garrett (for a second pastorate), George Balcom, Vincent L. Garrett (for third pastorate), John C. Rooney, George Gates, C. H. Planch, Edwin Hard, L. B. Albert, I. E. Brown, C. R. Negus, James Cook.

*The Branchport Presbyterian Church.*—The Presbyterian Church of Branchport and Jerusalem had its inception in the early meetings and services held by Rev. James Rowlette at West Jerusalem and on Bluff Point. Two years later, or in 1832, a society was organized through the efforts of Revs. Samuel White, William Todd and Stephen Crosby, with members as follows: Ira and Abigail Green, Wynans and Julia Bush, Dexter and Sarah Lamb, David Rumsey, Lydia Tettsworth, Sophia Rumsey, Jane Rumsey, Eliza Rumsey, Betsey Hoffstratter, Mrs. Mary Morse, Miss Mary Morse, Mrs. Leman Dunning, Polly Dunning, Hopedill Hastings and Pamela Jagger. The organization was completed on the 24th of July, 1832, and Rev. James Rowlette was the first chosen pastor. The church edifice was erected in 1833, costing \$1,900, and was dedicated in October of the year named. The building answered the purposes of the society until 1851, when it was removed from the hill to its present location. At the same time it was thoroughly repaired and remodeled. Succession of pastors: James Rowlette, Robert L. Porter, Lewis Hamilton, John C. Morgan, Samuel Porter, Horace Fraser, A. Foster, Lewis M. McGlashan, Horace Fraser,

Richard Woodruff, Lewis M. McGlashan, Rev. Fitch, A. T. Wood, S. Ottman, Theo. O. Marsh, Rev. McLain, Rev. Judson, Chauncey Francisco, Charles T. White, E. H. Stratton, J. Cairnes, H. B. Sayre. M. E. Nelson acted as supply through the summer of 1872.

*St. Luke's Church.*—The church and parish of St. Luke's at Branchport was informally organized in 1863, but prior to that time Episcopal services had been held for several years, and since 1855. The families in the locality were connected with St. Mark's parish and church at Penn Yan, and the early services here were held by the rectors of that church and by lay readers living in the town. In 1863, upon the organization of the parish, Rev. Henry B. Barton became rector, but died within a month of his coming to the town. He was succeeded in 1865 by the Rev. William B. Otis. In 1866 the parish was regularly organized according to law, and a church edifice erected. The first officers were Henry Rose and Joseph Axtell, wardens; Solomon D. Weaver, John N. Rose, James C. Wightman, Harris Cole, Lynham J. Beddoe, John Haire, Henry R. Sill and John N. Macomb, jr., vestrymen; John N. Macomb, jr., clerk; and J. C. Wightman, treasurer. The church is of stone, 28 by 54 feet in size, with recess chancel fourteen feet deep. Its cost was \$4,000. Succession of rectors: B. W. Stone, Camman Mann, M. Teller, Henry Dennis, W. H. Lord.

*The Branchport Universalist Church* became first rooted in Jerusalem during the "Forties," and under the labors of Rev. Wheelock as minister. In the same relation he was followed by Revs. Clark, Sawyer and Carpenter, each in succession conducting services whenever and wherever opportunity offered. On the 9th of April, 1851, the "Universalist Society of Branchport" was duly organized, and in June following the present church edifice was erected, costing about \$2,500. Ira Pearce was then moderator, and Peter H. Bitley first clerk. Bradley Shearman, James Stever and G. F. Colburn were the trustees. Rev. Reuben Cheeney was the first pastor, followed in succession, by B. Hunt, A. G. Clark, James Fuller, Asa Countryman, H. B. Howell, H. K. White, C. F. Dodge, J. F. Leland, N. E. Spicer and A. U. Hutchins; the latter being the present pastor. The society owns a parsonage and a small farm of fifty acres about a mile north of the village. The latter was the generous gift of Peter H. Bitley. Connected with the church

are the organizations known as "The King's Daughters," and the "Young People's Christian Union."

*Supervisors.*<sup>1</sup>—Eliphalet Norris, 1799; Levi Benton, 1800; Benj. Barton, 1801; Daniel Brown, sr., 1802; George Brown, 1803-09, 1813-16; John Beddoe, 1810-12; John B. Chase, 1817; Joel Dorman, 1818-22; Jacob Herrick, 1823, 1827; Elisha Mills, 1824-26; Alfred Brown, 1828-30; John Phelps, 1831; Aza B. Brown, 1832; Asahel Stone, jr., 1833; Henry Larzelere, 1834-35; Spencer Booth, 1836, 1840-41, 1844; Lynham J. Beddoe, 1837; James Brown, 1838-39; Samuel Botsford, 1842, '47, '51, '60; George Wagener, 1843; Albert Wait, 1845; Simeon Cole, 1846; Myron H. Weaver, 1848; Peter H. Bitley, 1849, '54; George Crane, 1850; Hiram Cole, 1852; Uriah Hanford, 1853; John C. Miller, 1855; Ferris P. Hurd, 1856, '57, '65; Henry W. Harris, 1858; Bradley Shearman, 1859; J. Warren Brown, 1861-62; Daniel B. Tuthill, 1863-64; Phineas Parker, 1866; Morgan Smith, 1867; Harrison H. Sisson, 1868; John Laird, 1869-70; Charles W. Taylor, 1871-74; William F. Hurd, 1875-76; Leonard Stever, 1877; Watkins Davis, 1878-79; Joseph Purdy, 1880-81; William F. Hurd, 1882; George C. Snow, 1883; John C. Watkins, 1884; John F. Finnegan, 1885; George W. Hobart, 1886; Edward N. Rose, 1887-88; Henry R. Sill, 1889-90; Thomas Campbell, 1891.

*Justices of the Peace.*<sup>2</sup>—Daniel Brown, jr., Giles Kinney, John Beal, Thomas Sutton, Joel Dorman, Joseph Gay, Nathaniel Cothorn, Nicholas Bennett, Erastus Cole, sr., Ezra Pierce, Elisha Mills, Erastus Cole, 1830, '34; Uriah Hanford, 1830, '31, '32, '37; Jonathan Talmadge, 1831; Bartleson Shearman, 1832, '35; Hixon Anderson, 1833; Martin Quick, 1836, '43, '45; William Culver, 1838; John A. Gallett, 1838; Israel Comstock, 1839, '43; Henry Hicks, 1840; Hiram Cole, 1841; George Wagener, 1844; Benedict R. Carr, 1846; Almon S. Kidder, 1847, '51; James P. Pardon, 1848; Heman Squires, 1848; S. S. Millspaugh, 1849, '53, Benj. Colegrove, 1850; Isaac Purdy, 1852; Josiah White, 1854, '58; Jeremiah S. Burtch, 1855; Miles B. Andrus, 1856, '60, '64, '69; Charles H. Vail, 1857; Watkins Davis, 1859, '63; Levi

<sup>1</sup> There appears no reliable record of supervisors of Jerusalem prior to 1799, except that the office was held by Thomas Lee in 1792, and by James Spencer in 1797.

<sup>2</sup> Dates of election given when known.

Millspaugh, 1861, '65,; Thos. W. Smith, 1862, '66; J. Warren Brown, 1867; Botsford A. Comstock, 1868, '72, '76, '80, '84; James Henderson, 1870; Seymour B. Coe, 1871, '77, '81; James McKie, 1874; Henry Stork, 1875, '79; James E. Watkins, 1878; Thomas Campbell, 1882, '86; John N. Macomb, jr., 1883; Robert C. Bishop, 1885; William Van Tuyl, 1887; John J. Comstock, 1888; William M. Barron, 1889; Rowland Champlin, 1890; Nathaniel Keech, 1891.

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## CHAPTER XXIV.

### HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF TORREY.

OF the nine separate townships which comprise the county of Yates, that called Torrey is the youngest in point of organization, but at the same time the town enjoys the distinction of having been the site of the first white civilized settlement west of Seneca Lake. In fact, as early as the year 1776, emissaries of the Society of Friends visited the lake country of New York State for the purpose of selecting a home and location for their society, and after casting about in various localities, finally and by mere accident pitched upon this as the most suitable of all the places they had examined. The result was, though not until a further examination had been made, that in the year 1788 about twenty-five persons, among them Abel Botsford, Peleg and John Briggs, George Sisson, Isaac Nichols, Stephen Card, John Reynolds, James Parker, with others, members of the families named, came to the locality and made the first permanent settlement in all this vast Genesee country.

The pioneers of 1788 built for their accommodation during the coming winter a single log house, and here dwelt until the next spring all that remained in the locality, a number having returned to their homes in the east. In 1789 many other Friends came to the New Jerusalem, as the locality was called, and more log houses were erected for their



accommodation. A road had been opened from the settlement to Norris Landing, so called, and along this highway the houses were built, and farms cleared and improved. In 1790 the Friend's frame house was built and made ready for occupancy by the distinguished leader of the society.

Thomas Hathaway, one of the leaders of the society, lived in a log house about half a mile, perhaps less, east of the Friend's house. The aristocratic Potter family, headed by Judge William Potter, lived south of Hathaway's place. Benjamin Brown, sr., lived nearer the Friend's home, and only about a quarter of a mile therefrom. Abel Botsford dwelt northwest of the leader, and Elnathan and Jonathan Botsford directly west of City Hill. Within a circuit of two or three miles dwelt all the familiar names of the remarkable community.

In the year 1790 the Friend herself, the distinguished leader of the devoted following, left her former residence in Pennsylvania and made the journey to the New Jerusalem, joining her faithful adherents early in the spring. This same year the log meeting-house was built on the road leading from Norris Landing to the Friend's mill. The Friend's frame house was also built this year, the means therefor being mainly contributed by Anna Wagener. This also stood on the old road frequently mentioned, between the mill and the landing; and it still stands, though but a wreck of its former greatness.

These original settlers of the Genesee country came singly and in family groups, commencing with the year 1788, and continuing for several years after the arrival of the Friend. Upon the organization of Ontario County in 1789, it was provided that the territory thereof should be formed into districts as the country should become settled, or as the government of the shire should seem to warrant and require. In accordance with this provision the district of Jerusalem was created, but it was not until the year 1792 that any government was attempted to be established therein. In that year Thomas Lee was chosen supervisor, and he made the first tax roll of the district, which roll was signed by the supervisors of Ontario County. A copy of the names contained in this roll will show to the reader who were the taxable inhabitants of the district at that time. But the reader must understand that the district of Jerusalem embraced all the territory now included by the towns

of Benton, Jerusalem, Milo, Potter and Torrey. However, although settlement had in a measure progressed in other towns, the greater portion of the then population was within the present limits of Torrey township. The roll, less the amount assessed against name, was as follows: Peleg Briggs, Peleg Briggs, jr., John Briggs, Isaac Nichols, John Supplee, William Davis, William Robinson, Micajah Brown, Elijah Brown, Beloved Luther, Thomas Sherman, James Hathaway, Lewis Birdsall, Daniel Brown, jr., John Lawrence, Abraham Dayton, Richard Smith, Adam Hunt, Silas Hunt, Silas Spink, Thomas Prentiss, James Parker, David Wagener, Jesse Dains, Castle Dains, Eleazer Ingraham, Amos Gurnsey, Reuben Luther, George Sisson, Sheffield Luther, Ezekiel Shearman, Noah Richards, Hezekiah Townsend, Joseph Landers, Enoch and Elijah Malin, Stephen Card, Benedict Robinson, Sarah Richards, Elnathan Botsford, Mercy Aldrich (widow), Susannah and Temperance Brown, Jonathan Dains, Ashael Stone, Jonathan Botsford, Jacob Wagener, Jedediah Holmes, Thomas Hathaway, Abel Botsford, Benajah Mallory, Benjamin Brown, John Blake, Anna Wagener, Elijah Botsford, Barnabas Brown, Levi Benton, Samuel Taylor, Capt. David Brown, James Spencer, Martin Spencer, Richard Hathaway, Philemon Baldwin, James Scofield, George Wheeler, John Pond, Perley Dean, Robert Chissom, Truman Spencer, Abraham Voak, Edward Walworth.

The little settlement on the lake, practically within the limits of the present town of Torrey, was composed almost exclusively of members of the Society of Friends and their families. And throughout the district of Jerusalem, although there were many pioneers who had nothing in common with the Friends, particularly in religious opinion, the greater part of the population was either directly or indirectly affiliated with the society.

In making their first settlement on and near the shores of Seneca Lake, the society believed themselves to be located upon State lands, to which they might readily acquire title through the governor. For this purpose early application was made to the proper authorities, and the agents of the society were requested to attend the public land sales at Albany. This was done, with result in the purchase of a vast area of 14,040 acres of land by James Parker, William Potter and Thomas Hathaway. This tract afterward became known as the Potter Loca-

tion. North of it lay Read and Ryckman's Tract; west of it was Lansing's Location and other grants. The deed to the grantees above named was dated October 10, 1792. But the Friends were in a measure mistaken in the belief that they were locating on State territory, but the fault lay not with them. As the old or first pre-emption line was run or surveyed, their location was appropriate, but, as in the course of a few years became apparent, there had been perpetrated a gross fraud in making the original east boundary of the Phelps and Gorham purchase; and in running the true line, some four years later, it was found that a considerable portion of the Friend's settlement and improved lands lay west of the line, and therefore were then the property of the association represented by Charles Williamson, the latter the grantee of Robert Morris, and he the successor to Phelps and Gorham.

This unfortunate discovery worked to the disadvantage of the society, and was the occasion of a petition by twenty three prominent members thereof to Mr. Williamson, requesting that they be quieted in their possession of the lands through permission to purchase from him. This request was granted, and none of the settlers lost his lands through the fault of the first surveyors of the pre-emption line on the east. The State, however, was obliged to make proper restitution to Mr. Williamson and others who suffered on account of the fraudulent survey. But the one thing above all others that contributed to the decline in the society, and of its strength and influence in this locality, was the withdrawal in membership and support of James Parker and William Potter. In fact, the disturbance and complications growing out of this withdrawal worked a partial disintegration of the society, and was a controlling cause in influencing the Friend to depart from the settlement and take up her final abode in the town of Jerusalem, which town her faithful followers had purchased for this purpose. But although it may be an essential subject of Torrey's early history to thus treat at length of the events herein narrated, the same has also been done in one of the general chapters of the present volume. Therefore the attention of the reader is directed to the chapter devoted to the Society of Friends for more particular narrative concerning the early history of Torrey.

Running through several chapters of township history in this work,

particularly in those relating to Benton, Jerusalem and Milo, the reader will find a record of many of the early families who were originally dwellers in Torrey, as afterward constituted, and who changed their places of abode at such an early day as to make them pioneers of the towns to which they moved. Still, there are yet resident in the locality now called Torrey many descendants of pioneer heads of families, who are worthy of at least some brief mention in this connection; and in another department of this work will be found still further mention of the prominent men of the town within the last half century, and since the town was brought into existence.

The family of Benedict Robinson was one prominently conspicuous and important in the Friend's settlement on Seneca Lake. The head of this family was not only a pioneer, but is said to have been one of the commissioners sent to locate a tract for the society's home, although the name of Mr. Robinson has not been previously mentioned in that connection. Mr. Robinson was also one of the leading men who became alienated from the society, and from that time forth was in bitter enmity with the Friend's doctrine. Benedict Robinson died in 1832, and his wife in 1837. The family home was on the "gore," as it has been commonly known. The children in this family were Phebe, Daniel A., James C., and Abigail.

In 1869 Dr. John Hatmaker, at the expense of much time and labor, made and reported to the Yates County Historical Society a complete list of the first settlers in the town of Torrey, together with the names of persons who in 1869 were the occupants of the lands on which the pioneers located. The report was as follows: "The south part of what is now the town of Torrey, on the south side of the stream, was all a part of John Lansing, jr.'s location, where small improvements were made by different individuals, viz.: Elisha Botsford, Sheffield, Elisha and Beloved Luthur; and afterwards Benedict Robinson and William Potter became owners or agents of the location, and it was sold to those who made improvements."

The first settlers, with occupants at the time of making the report, 1869, were as follows: *Jephtha Randolph*,<sup>1</sup> Daniel Randolph; *Jonathan*

<sup>1</sup>For convenience and brevity the names of first settlers are given in italics.



*Lamb*, Moses Rapalee ; *Jonathan Sisson*, George Y. Dains ; *Isaiah Youngs*, Benjamin Youngs ; *James Meek*, Perry Denniston ; *Richard Hayes*, Henry Brown ; *Wright Brown*, Wright Brown, jr. ; *Esther Briggs* (or *Plant*), Mr. Gelder and Mrs. J. Perry ; *Silas Hunt*, Dr. E. S. Smith ; *Elsie Hazard*, Russell Buckley and D. W. Dox. Above the road : *Silas Hunt*, Uriah Bennett ; *Jesse Dains*, N. Rapalee ; *George Sisson*, — ; *George and Abner Gardner*, George G. Gardner ; *Sheffield Luther*, Rufus E. Townsend and Mr. Deniston ; *David King*, Daniel King, J. Bell and J. Beard ; *The Friend's place*, owned by C. J. Townsend ; *Abel Botsford*, A. Leach and James Clark ; *Adam and John Castner*, Charles J. Townsend ; *William and Arnold Potter*, Adam Clark ; *John Bruce*, G. Turner ; *Hezekiah Townsend*, Allen Owens ; *Elijah Malin*, Samuel Embree ; *Gilbert Hathaway*, Richard H. Hathaway ; *Thomas Hathaway*, Manchester Townsend ; *John Remer*, J. J. and G. B. Hazard ; *B. W. Hazard*, Andrew Oliver ; *Benedict Robinson*, William Benedict, P. J. Seeley and David Hatmaker ; *Latimore and Birkett*, A. V. Remer.

One of the most historic and sadly interesting situations in the town of Torrey is that commonly called the City Hill Cemetery. It is well known that the Friends intended to not only found a colony and spread their possessions over a considerable area of country, but it was also their purpose and design to found and establish a village or city, where should be the chief center of trade for their community of people. They did establish a village, and named it Hopeton. As a necessary adjunct also to this village, and as well of their entire settlement, they laid out and founded a cemetery for the burial of their dead. The Friend herself here on many an occasion officiated at a funeral, and laid peacefully away some of the most devout and worthy members of her flock.

The cemetery itself was laid out on the elevated land that took the name of City Hill, from whence the burial place was likewise named. It was and is a beautiful situation, about one mile west from the lake. The first person here buried was the wife of pioneer Jedediah Holmes, one of the first comers of the Friend's society, and one of her most faithful adherents. To make a coffin or burial casket, a log was holloed out after splitting a slab from one side ; and being afterward replaced, the slab served as a cover.

Among the prominent Friends and others buried in the City Hill Cemetery, we furnish the names of a number, with the age of the person at the time of death. They were all, or nearly all, members of the society, and it will be observed that the simple and frugal manner of living observed by nearly all of them was especially conducive to longevity. Stephen Card died and was buried in 1836, aged seventy-five years; Hannah, wife of Stephen Card, died in 1851, aged ninety-four; Mary, wife of George Gardner, died in 1848, aged ninety-four; Abner Gardner, 1860, aged seventy-nine; Rowland Champlin in 1848, aged seventy-four; Jonathan J. Hazard in 1812, aged eighty-four; Patience, wife of J. J. Hazard, in 1810, at seventy-six; Mary, wife of Griffin B. Hazard, in 1845, at seventy-nine; Mary Norris, daughter of Thomas Hathaway, in 1847, at seventy-six; Hezekiah Townsend in 1812, at sixty; Daniel Castner in 1811, at eighty-five; Andrew Castner in 1847, at eighty-one; Adam Castner in 1858, at eighty-five; John D. Castner in 1852, at seventy-eight; John Remer in 1820, at seventy-five; Sarah, wife of John Remer, in 1817, at sixty-three; Aaron Remer in 1841, at sixty; George I. Remer in 1845, at seventy; Isaiah Youngs in 1829, at eighty; Mary, wife of Isaiah Youngs, at seventy-three; George Sisson, of the first company of Friends, in 1831, at seventy eight; James Pitney in 1845, at eighty-three; Rebecca, his wife, in 1853, at eighty; Sheffield Luther in 1845, at eighty-four; and Mary, his wife, in 1849, at ninety-two; James Meek in 1836, at seventy-three, and Mary Ann, his wife, in 1855, at eighty-nine; Wright Brown in 1837, at eighty-seven, and Bethany, his wife, in 1828, at sixty-nine; Thomas Hathaway, jr. in 1853, at eighty-four, and Mary, his wife, in 1866, at ninety-five; Abel Botsford in 1817, at seventy, and Mary, his wife, in 1830, at eighty-eight; Jonathan Botsford in 1833, at ninety-two; Robert Buckley in 1849, at seventy six; Peleg Briggs in 1807, at seventy-eight, and Margaret Briggs in 1800, at sixty-six; Rowland Embree in 1837, at seventy-seven, and Allah, his wife, in 1852, at seventy-seven; Samuel Hadley in 1847, at eighty-three, and Elizabeth, his wife, in 1846, at seventy.

In the year 1851 a number of the enterprising citizens residing in the northeast part of Milo and the southeast part of Benton, conceived the idea of organizing a new township in Yates County. It is just possible

that the projectors of this scheme had this erection in mind at an earlier date than that mentioned, but the matter did not assume any tangible form prior to that time. In the result sought to be accomplished the chief actors had a double purpose to actuate their movement. They desired on the one hand to have organized in the county a truly Democratic town, while the other moving consideration had its object in the building up of the little borough of Dresden, and the making thereof the chief center of trade and business for the town to be erected. The second object was certainly commendable, while the first named was not to be condemned.

The proposition to create a new town out of the lands of Benton and Milo came before the county legislative body, the Board of Supervisors, at its annual session in 1851. Of course the taking of the most desirable section of these two old towns, and therefore depriving them of long established and thoroughly developed resources, met with serious opposition on the part of their people and representatives, and the result was that the scheme was defeated by the supervisors' vote. At that time Henry Torrey, of Rushville, in the town of Potter, was a member of the board, and its chairman. After the proposition had been defeated, Chairman Torrey said if the town was to be named after his surname he would move a reconsideration of the former vote, and again put the proposition upon its passage. This was agreeable to the friends of the new town; the vote was reconsidered and the town formed by a majority of the board on the 14th of November, 1851.

In 1852 the first town meeting was held, and a complete set of officers was elected. From that time to the present the supervisors of the town of Torrey have been as follows: 1852, Charles J. Townsend; 1853, Heman Chapman; 1854, Luther Sisson; 1855, Luther Sisson; 1856-57, Levi Speelman; 1858, George W. Gardner; 1859, Charles J. Townsend; 1860, Harvey W. Norman; 1861, Jacob Van Deventer; 1862, Darius Baker; 1863, Dudley W. Dox (resigned), George W. Gardner (appointed); 1864, George W. Gardner; 1865, Harvey W. Norman; 1866, George W. Gardner; 1867-68, Jacob Van Deventer; 1869-70, Stephen D. Graves; 1871, Eben S. Smith; 1872, James M. Clark; 1873, Lewis B. Dunning; 1874, James M. Clark; 1875, Stephen D. Graves; 1876, Charles M. Speelman; 1877, Horatio N. Ha-

zen; 1878, Charles M. Speelman; 1879, Charles J. Townsend; 1880, Eben S. Smith; 1881, Charles M. Speelman; 1882, Stephen D. Graves; 1883, Amos A. Norman; 1884, Charles H. Gardner; 1885-87, John W. Smith; 1888-89, Johnson J. Denniston; 1890-91, John W. Smith 2d.

*Dresden Village.*—With the building of the Crooked Lake Canal, in 1830-33, there was about the same time built up at its eastern termination a thriving, prosperous village to which was given the name of Dresden; but why so named there appears no present satisfactory explanation. The village of Dresden, as originally established, occupied that part of the then town of Milo that bordered upon Seneca Lake, and in close proximity to the canal line, but as the hamlet increased many fine houses and a number of public buildings were erected on the more elevated lands north of the village proper, and all were included within corporate boundaries in 1867.

As early as the erection of Yates County, Dresden village had an existence, and the good people of the locality presented to the commissioners selected to designate a site for county buildings their claims to the seat of justice of the county. The broad table-lands overlooking the beautiful waters of Seneca Lake presented a most attractive situation, not only for the buildings themselves, but as well for the gradual building up of a municipality of considerable size and importance. But, unfortunately for Dresden and its people, the then owner of this table-land refused to part with any portion of his possessions for less consideration than \$1,000 per acre; nor would he sell his entire tract for anything less than a fabulous sum. The result was that the county buildings were given to Penn Yan, and the possibilities of a future Dresden of some note were practically destroyed. However, during the early canal days Dresden, in a way, was an important place. On the outlet were saw and grist-mills, a woolen-factory and other industries, while a boat-yard and dry-dock on the canal added to the business of the locality. But when canal boating on and between the lakes began to decline, and yielded to the more rapid transportation by rail, there began also a decline in the importance of Dresden and her business interests. The old industries were changed in occupancy, and a number of them were destroyed by fire; and the only manufacturing concerns



now within the village are the Russell & Birkett mills, and one other not in operation.

On the 16th of July, 1867, the village of Dresden was incorporated. To accomplish this a numerously signed petition was presented to the County Court, and five months later the application was granted. At that time the territory sought to be incorporated contained a population of slightly more than 300 persons, and the survey made by Lorimer Ogden included within the village limits a little more than 200 acres. The committee to superintend the survey and census taking comprised Jacob Van Deventer, Charles W. Brown and George S. Downey. The first officers elected were: Trustees, Luther Harris, Edward M. Van Clief, Charles W. Brown, George W. Brundage and James Thomas; assessors, Aaron M. Davis, Charles F. Sisson and Albert G. Prosper; collector, George W. Hazard; treasurer, Francis Hood; clerk, Aaron R. McLean. The officers for 1891 are: President, Benjamin F. Paddock, and trustees, Christopher Halpin and Michael Kinney; treasurer, George C. Smith; collector, Charles C. Carr, and clerk, Seth Youngs.

The business interests of Dresden now comprise the general stores of Caleb Brundage and Denniston & Son; the post-office and grocery of C. A. Davis; the drug store of Edward Castle; the Dresden Hotel of George R. Hazard; the American Hotel, kept by Albert Norman; the elevator of Denniston & Birkett, and the mills before mentioned. The public buildings of the village are the large brick school-house, and the churches of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopal societies. These, although located in the village, are institutions of the town, and as such will be treated.

*Torrey Church History.*—Religious services of various church societies have from time to time been conducted in the town of Torrey, but of the many denominations that have had a temporary existence in the town, but three have found here a permanent abiding place. With the possible exception of the First Presbyterian Church of Benton (from which town Torrey was in part formed), which had its organization during the early years of the century, the Methodists appear to have been the pioneers in making church history. But of course from this statement must also be excepted the Society of Friends, who built a log meeting-house in 1791.

In 1827 Dresden was made an appointment in the Crooked Lake Methodist Episcopal circuit, at which time Dennison Smith and Jacob Early were circuit preachers, and conducted semi-monthly services in the school-house. In 1831 the first class was organized, Alfred Lyman being its leader. In 1829 Herman H. and Isaac Bogart built at their own expense a free church, in which all denominations were permitted to worship. Services were held in this edifice on occasions by Methodists, Presbyterians, Dutch Reformed, Baptists and Universalists, just as they came along and made appointments. The Sunday-school of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in May, 1833.

In 1839, March 21, the Methodist Episcopal society of Dresden was organized according to law. The trustees then chosen were Daniel Dean, Russell Brown, sr., Smith Beers, Lewis N. Beard, John R. McLean and H. H. Hazen. The society made an effort to purchase from Aaron Remer the church built by the Bogarts, which had passed to Remer by purchase, and for this purpose several hundred dollars were collected together; but Pastor Beers absconded with the money. Mr. Remer, however, gave permission to the society to use the church. This society continued with varying success and strength until 1841, when it became practically extinguished.

A Baptist society was organized in the town about 1845, with Josiah C. Swarthout, Alpheus Veazie and Seymour Tracy as trustees. They bought the old Bogart church from the Remer estate. Rev. A. Valentine was the first pastor of the society. But the Baptist Church of Dresden and Torrey was also of short life.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Dresden was duly organized on the 21st of March, 1848, being in part a revival of the old West Dresden society above referred to. The new trustees were Henry Larzelere, Daniel Castner, Luther Harris, William E. Bellows, George W. Graves, Caleb J. Legg and A. H. Condit. The society first leased and occupied the Presbyterian Church, but in 1849 the trustees purchased the Baptist Church property at a cost of about \$450. The next year the church building was completed at a further cost of \$400. In 1851 the edifice was dedicated. In 1854 the parsonage was purchased. In 1867 arrangements were made for repairing and reseating the church. The building committee for this work comprised Daniel Dean, W.

Longwell, J. D. Jacobus, L. B. Dunning and C. W. Brown. Funds to the extent of \$1,500 were raised for the work. All was accomplished and the church rededicated on May 20, 1868. The cost of the recent work was \$3,800.

The Presbyterian Church of Dresden, or, as organized, the First Presbyterian Church of West Dresden, is the almost direct outgrowth of the mother church known as the First Presbyterian Church of Benton. The latter was formed through the efforts of Stephen Whitaker during the latter part of the year 1809, and numbered in its membership many of the substantial residents of what is now Torrey. In January, 1823, the members voted for a division of the society, a part coming to the Penn Yan church, while about eight of its membership formed a Congregational society in Torrey in November, 1830. In 1834 the First Presbyterian Church of West Dresden supplanted and superseded the Congregational organization, and has since been one of the institutions of this town. The first house of worship was erected in 1834, and dedicated on November 24 of that year. In 1868 it was materially enlarged and improved, at an expense of about \$3,000, and was rededicated December 24 of the same year. The office of pastor has been filled by these incumbents; Linus W. Billington, George T. Evert, J. Petrie, Stephen Porter, D. A. Abby, Robert McMath, Calvin Chase, C. H. Chester, Frederick Graves, Allen Traver, E. W. Brown, David A. Blose, John Cairns, H. H. Lipes and Samuel C. Garlick.

St. John's Church and parish were the outgrowth of the early mission services conducted first about 1860, by Rev. Timothy Wardwell, during his rectorship of the church at Penn Yan. The parish was organized and the church erected about 1869 or 1870. It is of brick, and has a seating capacity for 180 persons. In the parish are thirty-two families, while the church has about forty-one communicants. A parish building was erected in 1889, costing about \$600. The rectors of St. John's Church have been Rev. Timothy Wardwell, Cameron Mann, William Atwell, H. S. Dennis, H. B. Gardner, Jeremiah Cooper and William H. Lord. Since 1885 the parish has been without a rector, services being held during the time from that until the present under the direction of the Convocation, either by a clergyman or lay reader.

## CHAPTER XXV.

## HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF BARRINGTON.

**A**MONG the towns of Yates County, Barrington occupies a position on the south. As a part of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase, the survey into townships brought Barrington as number six in the first range; from which it may be inferred that the eastern boundary of the town was the pre-emption line, and that between its south boundary and the Pennsylvania north line were five other townships, each being approximately six miles in north and south measurement. The original survey of Barrington, under the Phelps and Gorham ownership, brought three of its lots, Nos. 73, 74 and 75, to the westward of Lake Keuka; and these were annexed for convenience to Jerusalem. Therefore the township of Barrington, exclusive of the part of the lake within its survey and the three lots west of the lake, includes considerably less than thirty-six square miles.

The town of Barrington was one of the parcels conveyed by Phelps and Gorham to the New York Genesee Land Company, or to its representatives, in compromise of the pretended claim of the company to right of possession under the long lease made with the Six Nations; and like most of the other towns, Barrington was lotted and drafted by and among the persons interested in the company. The lot drawn by each represented an interest in the company of a shareholder. This process was maintained by the company through all, or nearly all, of the towns deeded to it by Phelps and Gorham. But it appears that a portion of the lands of this town in some manner passed into the ownership of the Pultney estate, represented by Agent Charles Williamson, while still another part passed to the Hornby estates, and that but few of the lots originally drawn for by shareholders in the lessee company were sold by them directly to settlers within the town, but the titles in some way passed to the Pultney and Hornby estate, and the lands were subsequently acquired by actual settlers from the agents of the estates or associations.



Barrington was not an original town of Yates County. On the 18th of March, 1796, Steuben County was erected, and included within its boundaries all that is now called Barrington, and Starkey as well. Upon the organization of Steuben, and the formation of its territory into townships, all that is now Barrington, together with what is now called Starkey and Tyrone, Wayne and Reading, comprised the original town of Frederickton, so named after Frederick Bartels, or Bartles, a Dutchman employed by Charles Williamson, and who built a mill on the outlet of Mud Lake, in 1793. The town of Reading was afterward set off, and Wayne organized, including Barrington. In 1822 Barrington was organized, its first town meeting being held in 1823, on the 24th of February, when officers were for the first time elected.

Still the town remained a part of Steuben County until January 1, 1826. On the 5th of April, 1824, the Legislature passed an act, providing "that from and after January 1, 1826, all that part of Steuben County including Barrington," etc., shall be annexed to Yates County.

The town of Barrington has its entire western boundary on Lake Keuka, a most desirable possession, for here is the very garden of the grape and fruit growing industry. Once an agricultural town of some prominence in the county, but now its tillable lands are turned into vineyards, and its meadows into orchards. In agriculture the town was rich, but in fruit growing it is still more productive. In this respect the town is second to none in the county. Still the town has its farmers, and thrifty, progressive and forehanded they are, too.

The surface of the land in the town is peculiarly adapted to the use to which it is put. Lying on the east side of the lake, the hillsides find ample protection from the severe western winds in the moderating influences of the lake waters. The ascent back from the shore is nearly a mile long, sometimes greater than that, while the elevation attained varies according to locality from 300 to 800 feet. The greatest altitude attained is at Barrington Summit, where the elevation is 880 feet above the waters of the lake. Crystal Springs, a resort of great fame, is 315 feet higher than the lake.

The center of population and improvement in what we may call Yates County proper, during the first fifteen or twenty years of its history, was in the vicinity of Seneca Lake, the place pitched upon by the

Friends. Here was the central point of settlement in this region, and from thence it spread throughout the surrounding country, following the courses and occupying the lands which the pioneers considered best for personal interests. But Barrington appears not to have been touched or settled to any extent until the closing years of the first decade of this century. In fact, the pioneers of the region, in searching out the most desirable lands for their homes, appear to have given no thought of the elevated lands of this town as valuable for agriculture, but they turned toward Jerusalem, and Milo, Benton, northern Torrey, Starkey, and even Potter to a limited extent, as preferable to the ridge and gulleys, and dense woodlands of Barrington. True it is that the lands of Barrington offered no special inducements, no inviting future prospects to the pioneer, but the belief that the lands were poor or unproductive was an error, for there were and are as highly productive farms in this town as can be found in the county.

The pioneer of the town, according to common understanding and consent, was Jacob Teeples, better known as Colonel Teeples, who located in the town during the year 1800, and on what was known as Charles Williamson's road, leading from Bath to Geneva. Jacob Teeples was a pioneer, and a good and worthy citizen. He turned his habitation into a hotel, and kept public house for some years. Neighbors he had none for some time, but his house was an important point on the old stage road. Colonel Teeples was himself a worthy man, for he served two terms in the Assembly, representing Steuben County, and was also sheriff of the county one term. He was succeeded in the ownership of the hotel by Daniel Rapalee, after which he left the town. The latter continued for many years as landlord, as the first town meeting was held at his place in 1823.

From the time of his settlement in 1800 to 1806, Colonel Teeples was practically alone in the town, but the year last named witnessed the arrival of a number of families, among them being those of William Ovenshire, Oliver Parker, Thomas Bronson, Joseph Finton, William Coolbaugh, James Finley, James and Nehemiah Higby, John Carr, and possibly others whose names are not recalled. William Ovenshire came to Barrington in 1806, a young man with his wife, both determined upon making a home in the unoccupied township. He did this and more,

he became an influential man in the region ; was for many years constable and justice of the peace, and likewise a prominent church member. He was twice married and left a numerous family of children, who with their descendants are worthy residents of the town to-day.

Joseph Finton, one of the pioneers of 1806 in Barrington, was an old Revolutionary soldier. He made his settlement in the northeast section of the town, on the so-called "poor lands," but he succeeded in building up a fine farm. Like William Ovenshire, Mr. Finton raised a large family of children, ten in all, viz.: Mary, Phebe, Eleanor, Stephen, Charity, Isaac R., Joseph, Catharine, Susan and Amelia. The surname Finton is not now numerous in the town, but such as are here are among the respected and enterprising families of their locality.

Matthew Knapp, also a pioneer, was one of three brothers, the others being John and Charles, who cleared farms and established homes in Barrington. Matthew came to this locality from Orange County. To himself and his wife, Mary Knapp, were born several children: Hannah, Sally, Christiana, Eliza, William, Levi and Jesse. The family name is still worthily represented in the town.

David Sunderlin was the head of a family of ten children who became residents of Barrington. The first visit to the town by the pioneer was made in 1813, and in the next year settlement was made by him and followed by his family. He located in the part of the town that has ever since been known as Sunderlin Hollow, and so called in honor of the pioneer. David Sunderlin was from Putnam County, and his settlement in this town was directly instrumental in bringing to the Hollow and its locality a number of other families from the same place. The children of David were Dennis, Joseph, Daniel, Tippet, Ira, Eli, Anna, Lydia, Elizabeth, and Polly or Mary. The late Delazon J. Sunderlin was the son of Dennis Sunderlin, by his marriage with Nancy Finch. Delazon became one of the most influential men that Barrington ever produced. He was a lawyer of ability, and at one time district attorney for the county, in 1851-52. His wife was Louisa Swarthout, by whom these children were born: Ursula, Emila A., Martin J., Edward D., John L. and Nancy E. Tippet Sunderlin built the first saw-mill on Big Stream ; Dennis built the second.

John Wright came to the town from old Putnam in 1812 or there-

abouts. He married Lydia Sunderlin, who bore him these children : Maria, Martha, Lydia, Erasmus and Alzada.

Lodowick Disbrow was one of the Putnam County contingent that settled Barrington. He came in 1813. His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of David Sunderlin, by whom he had seven children : Dennis, Watson, Ira, Daniel, Anna, Maria and Mary Ann.

John Boyce married the widow of Justus Bassett, and came to make their future home in this town in 1812. Polly, Julia and Allen Bassett, children of Justus Bassett, came with them. Their settlement was made on lot 16, in the eastern part of the town. John Boyce and Beulah (Bassett) Boyce had three children : Clorinda, Chauncey and Harriet.

That locality of the town commonly known as East Hill was settled about 1814 by Orange Hollister. Subsequent settlers in the vicinity were Daniel Winters, Julius Stanton, Benjamin Osborn, Isaac H. Maples, Jonathan H. Taylor and others, perhaps, whose names are forgotten.

The surname Crosby stands not only for thrift and enterprise in Barrington, but as well for pioneership. Nathan Crosby came from Putnam County in 1812, and settled in Sunderlin Hollow, near what afterward became known as Crystal Spring. After two years he went to Delaware County, but only to return again to Barrington some years later. His children were Selah, Mariam, Esther, Sarah, Abigail, Peter H. and Cyrus. Peter H. Crosby married Catharine Finton. Their children were Emelia, Alanson, Joseph, Selah, Druzilla and Isaac. On Lake Keuka is a little hamlet called Crosby's, deriving its name from the industries built up by the sons of Peter H. Crosby. A succeeding portion of this chapter will furnish a more extended account of this locality.

Besides those already mentioned as being pioneer families of Barrington, there are perhaps others equally deserving of notice in this chapter. In the town to-day there are natives and descendants of early families, among whom may be recalled such names as Andrews, Baley, Bain, Bellis, Bullock, Chapman, Chase, Clark, Coons, Cornell, Edwards, Eggleston, Ellis, Fish, Florence, Freeman, Fry, Gardner, Gasper, Gibbs, Guthrie, Harpending, Horton, Houck, Jones, Kenyon, Lazear, Lee, Lewis, Lockwood, McDowell, McIntyre, Merrit, Millard, Miller,



Mosher, Morse, Nangle, Rapalee, Robinson, Shannon, Shaw, Sherwood, Smith, Snook, Sornberger, Stanton, Steadwell, Stoughtenburg, Struble, Swarthout, Swarts, Taylor, Thayer, Townsend, Tupper, Tuttle, Vangorder, Walton, Watson, Warren, Welker, Wheeler, Winters, Wixson, Wortman and Wright, each of whom has in some manner by his or their acts contributed toward the building up and establishing the condition of prosperity which the people of the town at this time enjoy. But to take from the above list each individual and family and furnish separate genealogical records for them would involve the writer of town history in a maze of difficulty and perplexity; in fact, it would be a task well nigh impossible of accomplishment, and would extend the volume of this chapter beyond all reasonable proportion.

The civil and social history of Barrington has been made in the every day life of its people; in the establishment of its churches and schools, and in the passing away of those who have finished their course. The present generation of dwellers in the town is engaged in the pursuits of agriculture and fruit-growing, to which occupations reference is made on succeeding pages. The town has its hamlets and settlements, but none of these has population to warrant incorporation or the adoption of any form of municipal government.

The first town meeting of the freemen of Barrington was held in 1823 on the 24th of February, at the house of pioneer Daniel Rapalee; at which time officers were elected as follows: Supervisor, Richard Eddy; town clerk, Daniel Rapalee; collector, Joseph McCain; commissioners of highways, James A. Swarthout, Jeremiah Shaw and Lodowick Disbrow; commissioners of schools, Ephraim Bennett, Matthew McDowell and Robert Armstrong; assessors, Tippetts Sunderlin, Ira Church and Matthew Knapp; overseers of the poor, Victor Putnam and Ezekiel Blue; constables, Elijah Baker, Joseph McCain and Peter Putnam, jr.; inspectors of schools, Dennis Sunderlin, Ira Sunderlin, Richard Eddy; poundmaster, Daniel Rapalee.

It seems to be conceded that the chief officer in each town is the supervisor; and it has become an established custom to furnish a succession of the incumbents of this office from the organization of the town to the date of compilation. Conforming to this rule, the appended record gives the succession of supervisors of the town of Barrington, as

follows : Richard Eddy, 1823 ; Alexander Patten, 1824-27 ; Ephraim Bennett, 1828 ; Asher Spicer, 1829 ; James A. Swarthout, 1830-31 ; Stephen Robinson, 1832-33 ; Ezekiel Blue, 1834-35 ; John Spicer, 1836-37 ; Levi Knox, 1838-39 ; Lodowick Disbrow, 1840-42 ; George W. Wolcott, 1843-44 ; Martin Holmes, 1845 ; John Wright, 1846-47 ; Archibald Campbell, 1848-49 ; Chauncey Boyce, 1850 ; Daniel Disbrow, 1851-52 ; William Kinne, 1853 ; Martin Holmes, 1854 ; Samuel V. Miller, 1855 ; Daniel Disbrow, 1856 ; Joseph F. Crosby, 1857 ; Samuel Williams, 1858 ; George N. Wilson, 1859 ; Abel Ward, 1860 ; Peter H. Crosby, 1861 ; Jonathan Taylor, 1862 ; Asa P. Fish, 1863-64 ; Delazon J. Sunderlin, 1865-66 ; Benson Smith, 1867 ; Jesse C. Knapp, 1868 ; Sackett B. Wixson, 1869 ; William McDowell, 1870 ; George Hels, 1871 ; Isaac Crosby, 1872 ; William S. Ellis, 1873 ; Benjamin F. Freeman, 1874 ; Robert Robson, 1875-76 ; Asa P. Fish, 1877 ; Isaac Crosby, 1878 ; George Hels, 1879 ; Gilbert Hopkins, 1880 ; Julius Stanton, 1881 ; Cyrus A. Lawrence, 1882 ; Henry Bullock, 1883 ; William Winters, 1884-86 ; Albert Ovenshire, 1887-88 ; Cyrus A. Lawrence, 1889 ; Jesse C. Knapp, 1890 ; John A. Gibbs, 1891.

*Crystal Springs.*—In the spring of 1865, when the country was crazy with oil speculations, a deer-lick on lot 50 in Barrington affording rich appearances of this sort, a company was formed in the vicinity to bore for oil. At a depth of forty-three feet the water came up so abundantly it was difficult to go farther. This was soon found to have medicinal virtues for which it has acquired a great fame. Erasmus Wright and Benson Smith, becoming proprietors of the location, erected in 1867 a house of four stories, 100 feet long and 42 wide, with a two-story wing 70 by 32 feet. The place has become a very popular resort and very many people who have tested the virtues of the water have believed themselves much benefited by its use. The flow of water is sufficient to fill a two-inch tube constantly. A house was opened at the spring by Sylvester Bowers in 1866, before the larger structure was built. Shortly after this mammoth hotel had become popular it was completely destroyed by fire, but the waters of this immense spring had become so popular, building lots had been laid out and some of them had been built upon. A post-office had been located, a mail route established, a store built and in operation ; real estate began to boom, consequently

the hotel was rebuilt, but it had scarcely been finished before it met a similar fate and was completely destroyed. Although this looked gloomy and discouraging, the spring had built up quite a little village, and the call was for another hotel, which, in the course of a year, Mr. Smith had well nigh built. A noted M.D. Deborah built a large sanitarium with all modern improvements, hot and cold baths, steam baths, etc., which was attached to the springs. This called a number from abroad for treatment. A park was laid out and wealthy men from a distance built cottages for summer resorts. Here the genial Fred Furnace held forth with his private grounds, cottage and curiosities. A pavilion was built and things looked booming, when for a third time the hotel was destroyed by fire. This finished up the old proprietor, and the property went into the hands of a Mr. Rathbun, of Elmira, who enlarged the sanitarium, remodeled it, converted it into a hotel, and it was thrown open again to the public under the supervision of Colonel Baker for two seasons; this last season of 1891 it flourished under the management of E. Gulick, of Starkey.

In the summer of 1891 a church building was erected at the Springs and dedicated in September of the same year, said church to be a union church for the use of those of all or of no denomination that chose to repair there for worship Sunday afternoon. The trustees were elected from different denominations, the pulpit to be supplied from the Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches of Dundee.

*Church History of Barrington.*—The only Methodist Church ever organized in Barrington, was organized in 1810. The Rev. B. G. Paddock gave them the first preaching. Among those admitted to church fellowship were William Ovenshire and Mary his wife, Joseph Gibbs and Mary his wife, Joseph Kanaan and wife, Peter Putnam and wife, Mrs. Mary Norris, Mrs. Dean, Mrs. Shoutts, Mrs. Barnes, and James Taylor and wife. Among the early preachers were George Harman, Palmer Roberts, P. Bennett, R. Farley, L. Grant, J. Gilmore, William Snow, W. Kent, F. Draper, R. Parker, John Beggary, and others; of a later period, Asa Story, J. Chamberlin, Ira Fairbanks, A. Steele, J. Dodge. The preaching was at Mr. Ovenshire's house for about fifteen years; afterwards at a near school-house until 1842, when the present church was erected, but a short distance from his own house.

W. Ovenshire was the class-leader about thirty years; he was then followed by his son Samuel. The church has had 150 members at one time. Some of the preachers still later were Rev. Mr. Graham, Rev. Mr. Hall, Rev. Mr. Lamon, also the Rev. Messrs. Walgermoth, Landreth, Edgar, J. Jarman, Dutcher, Weaver. At this time the Methodist people centered at a small village called Warsaw, near the middle of the town, and it was quite desirable that the house of worship should be as convenient as possible, and after some consultation it was decided to move it. Consequently in the summer of 1878 it was moved about one mile west to Warsaw, where it still flourishes. Since this time its pastors have been Rev. George Moxey, Revs. Brown, Chubbuck, Hinman, Ward, and Jeroloman. The present pastor is N. A. Depew; the class-leader, Benjamin Freeman, who succeeded S. Ovenshire. Cranstons Hewitt, John Ovenshire, R. Plasted, B. Freeman, Morris Ovenshire, A. J. Sargent, M. Bellows, E. Sprague, A. Bane, S. Lamont, and others have served as trustees in later years. L. Ovenshire, Morris Ovenshire, and John Ovenshire have served as clerk. The latter is still clerk. The present number of church members, about seventy-five; congregation from fifty to 150. Valuation of church property \$1,200.

In 1819 there was a Free Will Baptist Church organized by Elders Zebulon Dean and John Mugg. It consisted of eleven persons—Matthew Knapp, J. B. Retan, Mary Knapp, J. West, J. Swain, Margaret Swain, Hannah Knapp, Sarah Knapp, Christiana Knapp, Electa West, and Catharine Sales. John West was chosen clerk; Matthew Knapp elected deacon. The records previous to 1827 were destroyed by fire. At that time Elder John Stewart was their preacher. In 1828 Cyrus B. Feagles was expelled for drunkenness and profanity. In 1829 Zebulon Dean was their pastor and a John Pratt and Miss Benton became members. In 1830 H. Wisner and wife, T. Tuttle and wife, E. Feagles, and others also became members. The church continued to prosper until in 1833. They erected a meeting-house in 1834. The church voted that Matthew Knapp have license to preach. In 1835 the society voted that J. Pratt have license to preach; this same year Elder J. Signal baptized several members. In 1837 Elder E. Crane preached and baptized several persons. In 1841 Elder Beebe was the preacher. Regular meeting was kept up until 1847; soon after, the church was totally disbanded, and the building turned to other uses.



A council was called to organize a second Baptist Church of Wayne on March 20, 1819, and met at Frederick Townsend's. There were present delegates from other churches, as follows: Wayne, Elder E. Sanford, G. Bennett, Asa Yeoman; Pultney, Peter Powers, S. Drew; Second Milo, Elder Sutherland, John R. Powell, T. Bennett, Isaac Hedges, S. Sherman and others. Elder Powers was chosen moderator, Elder Bigelow, clerk. The following names are those of the constituted members of this church when organized: Janna Osgood, Ephraim Wright, Joseph Sunderlin, Eli Northrup, Deborah Baker, Anna Baker, Susan Sunderlin, Catherine Sutton, Esther House, Clarissa Brown, Martha Kirkham, Hannah Townsend, Lydia Sunderlin, Lydia Wright, Olla Roblyer, Bethia Burr, Parthena Walker, Jana Osgood, Meriam Bennett, Sally Demond, Betsey Booth, Elizabeth Disbrow. On the 27th of March, 1819, the first regular church meeting was held. At this meeting Janna Osgood was moderator, J. Sunderlin, standing clerk. They voted to hold the church meeting on the first Saturday of each month at John Wright's. Elder Sutherland supplied the church with preaching on Wednesday, April 6, 1819. The following were baptized: W. Wortman, John Wright, C. Knapp, S. Crosby, Eunice Knapp, Lydia Chase, Elizabeth Rarick, Fanny Wortman. Wednesday, March 12, 1819, James A. Swarthout and Miss Jacoby were baptized. Sunday, August 1, 1819, Elder Sutherland baptized Daniel Sunderlin and his sons, Dennis and Daniel W., Tippet, Ira and Eli Sunderlin, and three of their wives, Nancy S., Hannah and Fanny Sunderlin, Azariah Finch and wife, Nanah Silsbee, Polly Dakin, Nancy Long and Polly Burr. September 5, 1819, Stephen Robinson and wife, and Almeda Sunderlin were baptized. Jonathan Ketchum joined the church by letter April 8, 1820, and in October, 1821, the "Church voted that Brother Ketchum have the privilege of preaching in the bounds of the church." They erected their meeting-house in 1821 in Sunderlin Hollow, on the north side of the east and west road. The first meeting was held in this meeting-house April 6, 1822. In February, 1822, they chose Ephraim Wright and Charles Knapp deacons. When the town of Wayne was divided the greater part of the church society fell in Barrington, hence the name was changed to the Barrington Baptist Church, which name it now bears. The meeting-house is completely torn down,

and nothing remains to mark its former location but the tombstones of its silent dead. They now have their house of worship in the village of Wayne. This Baptist Church had adopted resolutions that no member of the Baptist Church should belong to a secret society. At about this time a number of their leading members joined some Masonic order and the church promptly expelled them, which created no little commotion in this and other Baptist Churches in the association and community. The second minister that served this church was Daniel Sherwood, and he was followed by Jonathan Ketchum, who preached for them over twenty years. Jonathan Ferris was also a preacher for them at an early period. A daughter of Elder Ketchum is the wife of Sacket B. Wixson, of this town.

*Warsaw Baptist Church.*—This church was organized at a meeting held at the house of John Moore, March 20, 1838, the following persons, mostly from the Barrington and Second Milo Churches, constituting the original membership: Tippetts Sunderlin, Peter H. Crosby, Abraham Hopkins, Elam W. Hopkins, Thomas Hopkins, Samuel B. Seymour, John Moore, William Freeman, Robert E. Baker, Stephen Robinson, John Smith, jr., Janna Osgood, Joseph Finton, James Baker, Stephen Smith, Larance Chubb, Susan Smith, Lucretia Kenyon, Rebecca Smith, Eliza Osgood, Thankful Finton, Almeda Sunderlin, Grace A. Beach, Naomi Hopkins, Rachel M. Hopkins, Rebecca Miles, Mary Oakley, Sabra Moore, Lucy Freeman, Alina Robinson, Sally Miles, Deborah Baker, Julia Baker, Mary S. Moore, Charity Baxter, Mahala Kinne. A meeting-house was built in 1838, at a cost of \$1,200. The church was supplied by Simon Sutherland the first six months until the house was erected. Reuben P. Lamb was the first pastor, and he served three years. The next was Horace Spencer, and after him David B. Olney preached for this church twelve years, then J. S. Webber, one year; Reuben P. Lamb, three and a half years; A. J. Buel, one year; George Baptist, nine months; Lewis Brasted followed. The first deacons were Stephen Robinson and Abraham Hopkins, and subsequently Tippetts Sunderlin, Peter H. Crosby, John Wilkins, Richard Lawrence and Sacket B. Wixson and others have filled that office. John Moore was clerk three and one-half years, Peter H. Crosby twenty-one years, and Sacket B. Wixson seven years. The trustees

have been : Tippetts Sunderlin, eight years ; Philo Chubb, twenty-three years ; W. Kinne, ten years ; P. H. Crosby, fifteen years ; N. Kinne, three years ; Samuel Williams, twelve years ; R. E. Baker, one year ; John Gibbs, two years ; Darwin Sunderlin, three years ; Jesse C. Knapp, eight years ; Martin Wixson, five years ; Daniel Tuttle, three years. The present house of worship was erected in 1867 and dedicated April 17, 1868. Its cost, with lot and furnishing, was \$5,000. This church has had several important revivals during the fifty-three years of its history. In January, 1872, James Parker began preaching for the church ; he preached eight years, and was still their beloved pastor when he was called away by death. Rev. C. Wardner preached from the spring of 1880, to the spring of 1883 ; Rev. A. D. Clark, from the spring of 1883 to October 1, 1887 ; Rev. James Nobbs, from January 1, 1888, to August, 1891. The present pastor is Rev. Mr. Walker. In 1886 and 1887 the church built a new parsonage, valued at about \$1,200. The church at present is in a healthy condition, the membership being 107, after dismissing by letter thirty-six to help constitute a church at Crosby. The present deacons are Joseph Fenton, R. A. Lawrence, Frank McDowell, Ed. Crosby ; present trustees, Michael Powleson, J. S. Bailey, William Crosby ; present church clerk, Joseph Gibbs. S. B. Wixson had served as clerk, preceding J. Gibbs, for over twenty-five years.

A Presbyterian Church was organized at Warsaw September 21, 1830. It had fifteen members in 1832, twenty-nine in 1837, and ceased to exist in 1840. The clergymen of that faith who labored with them were Benjamin B. Smith, J. S. Reasoner, Samuel T. Babbitt, and George T. Everest. The American Home Missionary Society aided in their support.

*The Baptist Church at Crosby.*—The Lake Keuka Baptist Church was organized May 15, 1888, at Crosby. At this time there was a number of Baptists living in the vicinity of Crosby who were too far from any place of worship to be any ways convenient. They organized a Sabbath-school at the Crosby school-house, where they also had preaching for a time in the afternoon on Sabbath, by the pastor from the Warsaw Baptist Church. There became quite an awakening under the preaching of Rev. Mr. Clark ; also a desire to have a house of worship

in their midst. Consequently, this little band of worshipers organized. The Rev. James Nobbs was chosen moderator, and C. Guile, clerk. The Rev. Mr. Sherer, of Penn Yan, and Rev. C. M. Bruce, from Milo, assisted in the organization. The following are the names of the constituent members: Isaac Crosby and wife, Henry Bullock and wife, Hermon Bullock and wife, Fred Crosby and wife, Mrs. B. M. Crosby, R. W. Weltch, his wife and two daughters, Frank and Ida, William I. Carr and wife, A. P. Wortman and wife, Susan Baily, Libby Baily, Mrs. C. Knapp, Mrs. C. Swarthout, Sarah M. Edwards, George W. Edwards and wife, E. Edwards, C. E. Guile and wife, Mrs. G. W. Fenton, Eliza Hewitt, Mrs. L. B. Gipson, Minnie Gipson, Mrs. L. Janes, Timothy Janes and daughter Alice, also his two sisters Lydia and Mary, Mrs. K. Plasted, Will Burt and wife, Mrs. Albert Amadon, L. J. Bellows, Hattie Lee, James Grace, Mrs. B. Gardner. Thirty-six members came from the Warsaw Baptist Church, six from the Second Milo Church, and two from Penn Yan. Isaac Crosby and Henry Bullock were chosen deacons, Isaac Hewett, Herman Bullock, and Amos Swarthout, trustees, Leroy J. Bellows, church clerk. They proceeded at once to erect them a house, and now they have as neat a house of worship as they could desire; church property valued at about \$3,000. A goodly number have also been added by baptism, and some by letter until the present membership is eighty-seven. Pastor James Hobbs has preached for them from the organization of the church until the spring of 1891. The present pastor is Rev. Mr. Walker.

*Post-offices, Manufactures, etc* — There are three post-offices in this town. Barrington post-office, situated at Warsaw; Crystal Springs at the springs, and Crosby at Crosby Landing, on the shore of Keuka Lake. Crosby village is situated on the east shore of Keuka Lake, in Barrington. It has its store, church, post office and school-house, two casket factories, and last but not least, a cluster of splendid houses, backed on the east by the beautiful vine-clad hills, and faced on the west by the silvery waters of Lake Keuka,—the dream-land of the soul through the heated season of the summer. It is in the midst of the grape-growing region, and at this landing hundreds of tons of grapes are shipped annually. Some of the principal grape growers in the town are Joseph Crosby, J. Eagleston, I. Crosby, C. Plasted, estate G. Bullock, H. Bull-



ock, E. Edwards, A. Amadon, S. Lamont, George Fenton, and hundreds of others. The basket factories deserve more than a passing notice. The proprietor of one is Hermon Bullock, that of the other George Fenton. Ten years ago the baskets were bunched up in dozens and sold by the dozen—a small pony business. But the demand has grown so rapidly that the mills have been furnished with all modern machinery for manufacturing baskets, and the largest logs are sawed and sliced out and turned until ready for the baskets; and this year the output of baskets from both factories is 1,500,000, giving employment to twenty-five or thirty men and to fifty or sixty girls. The Bullock mills do the sawing and cutting for the McMath and Morgan factories at Penn Yan. The Fenton mills furnish the Niagara Grape Company with 100,000 baskets annually. Peaches, currants, and raspberries are raised to quite an extent, and other small fruit, so that evaporators may be counted by the dozen all over the town. Among the largest raspberry growers of the town at present are Delmer Knapp and D. B. Cornell. The largest apple orchard is owned by D. B. Cornell, consisting of fifteen acres and twenty varieties. There are six steamboat landings in Barrington: Fenton, North and South Crosby, J. Eagleston, Hawk, and S. Eagleston.

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## CHAPTER XXVI.

### HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF POTTER.

AMONG the several divisions of Yates County, the town of Potter occupies a position on the northern boundary, abutting Ontario County. Its western boundary is Middlesex, its parent township; on the south is Jerusalem, and on the east Benton. According to the original survey, the greater part of the territory now of Potter was included by township eight, second range, but this was before the town had acquired either name or organization.

In the organization of the towns of old Ontario County, the territory now of Potter, together with Middlesex and other territory, was organ-

ized into the jurisdictional district of Augusta, but the name was afterward changed to Middlesex, and so continued until Potter was organized within its substantially present boundaries, and given a name as one of the towns of Yates County. This was done April 26, 1832. But instead of including the exact area of township eight, second range, in the town of Potter, for the convenience of inhabitants residing on the west part of number eight, a strip of land half a mile in width, and extending along the west boundary of the township, remained a part of Middlesex. In 1856, again for the convenience of inhabitants, one and one-half square miles of land in the southeast corner of Middlesex was taken from the last-named town and annexed to Potter. Therefore Potter as now constituted embraces about thirty-four and one-half square miles of territory, or its equivalent in acres about 22,000.

The principal water course of the town of Potter is Flint Creek, a stream of some magnitude, which crosses the town from southwest to northeast; but the land through which the water flows is so exceedingly low and level that the whole region on both sides of the stream is frequently submerged, and is generally of a marshy character, therefore unfit for cultivation. Across the southeast corner of the town flows the waters of the inlet of the west branch of Lake Keuka, while in the northeast quarter of the town are the waters of West River and its tributaries. The marsh lands of the township are rather more extensive than is desirable, and the fact that they extend through the central portions of the town detracts much from the general value of the region that is generally looked to for the best agricultural results. But, notwithstanding all this, Potter is by no means an unimportant subdivision of Yates County, and within its limits are found many farms as rich and productive as can be found in the county. Moreover, the town is well peopled and improved, and those who are dwellers therein are earnest in their endeavors, honest in their dealings, and generous and public-spirited in their contributions for local and general improvements. The town, too, has furnished its full share of public officers, as a reference to the civil lists of the county will disclose to the investigator.

*Pioneers and Early Settlers.*—In 1790 the first Federal census enumeration was made. The returns then made showed that there dwelt in township eight, second range, seven families, the respective heads of

which were Benjamin Tibbitts, Michael Pierce, Francis Briggs, Henry Lovell, William Hall, Arnold Potter and John Walford. These, therefore, were the pioneers of the town, upon whom fell the burden and the hardships of clearing the lands and making the first improvements in a new and comparatively uninviting territory. They were soon afterward followed by other settlers, upon whom the burden fell none the less heavily, and to whom perhaps is due as much of honor and credit as to the first comers but generally there is accorded to the first half dozen or so of pioneers all the glory of pioneership in a new county.

Arnold Potter, as he has ever been commonly known, or, more correctly, Benedict Arnold Potter, was not only the pioneer of the town that was named in his honor, but he was one of the most prominent and influential men in the whole region. He was at one time the owner of more than 35,000 acres of land in the old town of Augusta (which included Potter). He was born in 1761, and was the son of William Potter, the Friend's faithful follower and for some years most trusted counselor; but he fell away from the faith and eventually became her enemy, but not bitter nor revengeful. The last years of the life of William Potter were spent with Arnold Potter, at his home in this town. Like his father, Arnold Potter was once a Friend, but he too became alienated from the society, but his wife remained true to the faith. She was Sarah, daughter of Benjamin Brown, sr. Their children were William, Arnold and Penelope Potter. Arnold Potter, the pioneer, died at Harrisburgh, Pa., in 1810, while on his way to Philadelphia with a drove of cattle. In a printed circular issued by him in 1800, Judge Potter advertised for sale his land, in parcels; and he stated that on his tract of 16,000 acres there were two saw-mills and a grist-mill. The region at that time was called Potterstown. Thomas Hazard Potter, brother of Arnold, married Patience Wilkinson, sister of the Friend, and in 1790 settled in this town. He died in 1807, and his wife in 1819. Their children were Susan, Eliza and John.

Benjamin Brown, jr., married Penelope, the daughter of William Potter, at the house of Arnold Potter in 1790. One child, Penelope, was born of this union. The second wife of Mr. Brown was Mary Lamb. Benjamin Brown was a Friend, likewise a prominent man in the town. He was interested in the saw and grist-mills built in Potter Hollow in 1793.

Jesse and Joshua Brown, twin brothers, sons of James Brown, were pioneers in the town, making their settlement on lot 2, on land bought from Arnold Potter. Jesse sold out his interest to his brother, and moved to Benton. Joshua died in the town in 1832. His first wife was Clarissa Miner; his second Fanny Brown, and his third, a Widow Spencer. One child, Fanny, who married Ephraim Wheeler, was born of his second marriage.

Francis Briggs, the son of Peleg Briggs, a prominent Friend, was a pioneer on lot 6 in Potter, and there he lived nearly sixty years, and died in 1850. His first wife was Isabelle Albro; his second Olive Bell. The children of the first marriage were Mercy, Jacob, Joshua, Francis, Lydia, Margaret, Vaughn, Sally, William and Peleg. Isabelle and George Briggs were children of his second marriage.

Abel, Job and Caleb Briggs, brothers, were early settlers in the town, on land adjoining the Potter farm. Abel married Martha Dickinson, and had ten children: Harry, Gardner, Hiram, Eliza, Waity, Mercy, Warren, Lydia, Mary and Israel. Job married Susan Potter and had six children: William, John, Maria, Joel, Russell and Lucinda. Caleb married Mary Jones, and settled on the top of Potter Hill in 1817. They had eleven children: Marbra, Phineas, Mary, Betsey, Waity, Rebecca, Caleb, Pamela and Samuel (twins), Joseph and Sarah.

George Bates married the daughter of Peleg Briggs, sr., and settled on lot 9 in Potter in 1789. Their children were Mercy, George, Peleg, David, Mary, Lucy and Anna. George, the pioneer, died in 1826.

In 1808, William and Priscilla (Raymond) Hall settled in Potter. Their children were William, Priscilla, Seth, Phebe, John and Lydia. Rows Perry, formerly a Quaker preacher of some note, became a resident of Potter in 1791, when he worked by the month for Arnold and William Potter, receiving pay in land at fifty cents per acre. In 1794 he married Desiah Brown, sister to Arnold Potter's wife. Their children were Susan, Edmund, Rowland B., Fanny, Edward and Sally (twins), Benjamin, Ann, Robert and Mariette. Rows Perry died in 1853, and his wife in 1854.

In 1791 Jabez French visited this town and spent the greater part of that summer in surveying. In the fall he returned home, in Massachusetts, for his wife, but was delayed in again coming back to the locality



until 1794. The family settled near Rushville. They had eight children: Samuel, Ebenezer, Benjamin, Sarah, Jesse, Sophronia, Susan and Eunice.

William Bassett came to old Augusta in 1794, settling near Rushville. In 1796 he married Ann Blair, and reared a family of twelve children, ten of whom reached adult age. They were Nathaniel, Polly, Sally, Emily, Alexander, Samuel, Calista, Betsey, Thomas and Anna.

On the northwest corner lot in Potter, on the site of the present village called Rushville, in 1791 Elias Gilbert settled and built a house of poplar poles. His farm comprised 320 acres, which eventually became valuable land. The children of Elias Gilbert were Louisa, Jesse, Simon, Samuel, David, Solomon, Ephraim, Lydia and Richard.

Nathan Loomis and family came to Augusta in 1793; therefore he was a pioneer. His children were Chester, Lucy, James, Sally, Elisha, Amanda, Minerva and Benjamin.

Abial Thomas, wife and family settled on lot 9, third range, in Potter in 1801. Their children were Ashley, Vertie, Ambrose, Jeffrey, Lucy, Peleg, Eleanor, Mary, Lois and Janette.

In 1802 Dr. Jared Dyer became a settler in Potter, locating on lot 3, range three, where he practiced medicine until his death in 1813. His wife was Susanna Newell, by whom these children were born: Calista, Julia, Pierpont, Susan and Eliza.

Consider Bordwell was a native of Massachusetts, but he died a resident of Potter, in 1850. His wife, whom he married in 1809, was Calista Dyer. Their children were Jared D., William H., Susan H., Charles L., Robert P., William W., James R. and Herbert.

In 1796 Jonas Wyman and family settled on lot 2, second farm range. His children were Polly, Betsey, John and Samuel.

George Green and his family settled on lot 4, third range in Potter in 1804. He died in 1851. He was a former soldier in the Revolution; in the town he was many years justice of the peace.

In 1796 Nathan Warner settled in the town. In 1798 he married Martha Card and located near George Green. Their children were Benjamin, Samuel W., James S., Martha, Hannah, Tamar, Sarah, Rachel R., William E. and Lydia J.

Job Card came into the town from Rhode Island in 1795. His wife

was Martha Potter. Of their children, Potter G. married Betsey Hendricks of Potter; Jabez T. married Eleanor Wheeler, and Hannah married Joshua Payne. Benoni Moon and Hannah, his wife, and their family moved into Potter in 1800. Theirs was one of the most numerous families in the town. Their locality was called Moontown, on Flint Creek. The family of George Howard settled on lot 9, fourth farm range, in 1802. His children were, by his first marriage, James, George, David, John, Justus and Amos. Benoni Howard was a son of George by a second marriage. Carey Clark was an early settler on lot 11, range five. He succeeded pioneer Gaffle, and left a good family of descendants in the town.

In 1812 Alexander Parkman and family settled and lived about a mile and a half east of Rushville. The children were Erastus L., Sophia, Delanson E. and Cynthia D. Dr. Buffum Harkness came to the town in 1805, and practiced medicine until his death. His children were Altonia and Forrest; the latter also a doctor in the town. Nathan Webb, from Connecticut, settled in 1798 on lot 11, range six, and died there in 1807. His wife was Polly Pratt, who died at the home of her son, Dr. Nathan Webb, in 1858. John F., Dorcas, Ruby, Amelia, Mary and Nathan Webb, jr., were children of Nathan and Polly Webb. Nicholas Van Zandt, the progenitor of a large family of children, settled in the town on lot 8, range four, in 1815. These children were Garrett, Lucretia, Anna, Maria, Margaret, Jecheliah, Lydia Jane, Amy, Garnetta, Isam and Samuel. Joseph H. Williams was an early settler near Rows Perry. Among his children were Abigail, Huldah, Sarah, Rachel, Laura, Joseph, Polly, John F., Ira C., and Margaret. Jeremiah Barber married Anna Van Zandt, and came with her father's family to the town. Their children were Culver S., Ira, Lydia, Maria, Jonathan S. and Mahala. John Tucker and his son-in-law, Lindsley Warfield, became settlers in Potter in 1798. Abraham Florence, and his step-son, Peter Lawrence, came in 1807, and settled on lot 8, fifth farm range. Mr. Florence married Phebe A. Reynolds. Their children were Martha J., Andrew T., Phebe A., Sarah E., Peter R., Elizabeth and Charles F. Henry Van Wormer was an early settler on lot 9, fifth range. His wife was Elizabeth Horton, by whom these children were born: David, William, Hester, Elisha, John, Charity, Peter, Daniel and Abraham P. The

Savage family settled in the town in 1797. Dr. Frederick Dutch was the founder of the Dutch settlement in Potter, and continued to live in the town until his death, about 1840. Philip and Elizabeth (Kishler) Dinturff, with their family located in this town on lot 12, second range, in 1800. Their children were Jacob and Philip. Jacob Shuman was another of the Dutch settlers in the town, having come here in 1794, and purchasing 134 acres of land for \$168. Samuel H. Torrey was not a pioneer, but nevertheless a worthy settler. He resided near Rushville. His children were Nancy, Samuel, Larned, Henry, Augustus, Hiram, and Lucy.

Soon after the year 1800, Luke Conley, an Irishman, with his small family, came to Potter to live. The children in this family were Jane, John, Luke, William, Bartholomew, David R., Mary, James and Michael B. Dr. James Hermans was not a pioneer of Potter, but was for many years one of its leading citizens. He came from Dutchess County and practiced medicine in the locality and a part of the time at the county seat. His wife was Eliza Hartt, by whom he had these children: Cornelia M., Emma S., Edwin J., Charles E., Henry C., Catharine E., William H. and Mary E. Deacon David Sutherland is remembered as having been one of the pioneers of Potter, his settlement having been made on lot 8, of the second range, in the year 1792. His wife was Lucretia Smith. Their children were Joseph, Andrew, Sarah, Elizabeth, Alexander, Susanna, James and Patrick. David Sutherland was four terms in the Assembly from Ontario County. In 1796 John Voak and Rachel, his wife, came to Potter, locating on lot 9, first range. Their children were Lydia, James, Abraham, Isaac, Sarah, Samuel, Joseph, Mary, John and Josiah. Deacon William Holton and family came from York County, Pa., in 1796, and settled on lot 11, second range. His wife was Mary Lieper, by whom were born these children: Francis, Janette, James, Samuel and Mary. In 1795 Abraham and Rachel Lane came from their former home in Milo and located west of the Potter place, on lot 3, of the second range. Eight children were in their family: John, Joseph, Mary, Jacob, Hannah, Isaac, Abraham and Rachel.

Beza Whitman was the pioneer landlord at Rushville, at which place he opened public house about 1800. His wife was Alice Green, who bore him five children: Augustus, Marcus, Henry G., Samuel and Al-





*Oliver Underwood*





ice. Aaron Putney came to what is now Potter in 1814, locating on lot 6, seventh range, where he and his wife died. Their children were Nancy, Julia, Jedediah, Aurelia, Foskett M., Needham M., Martha, Olive, Aaron M. and Milo. In 1809 Lewis M. Bostwick and his then recently married wife settled on the York Tract. Their children born in the town were Mary, Nathan, William S., Daniel, Denton, Catharine and Hannah. Sanford Strobbridge, the wheelwright, settled north of Potter Center, in 1826. He and his wife had a numerous family, all but one of whom grew to maturity. They were Maria, Susan, Sanford D., Lyman H., Samuel G., Orville F., Jane E., George W., Charles H., James M. and William M. John S. Underwood, wife and family, part of his children being by a first marriage, located on the Potter farm in 1820, but afterward moved to Jerusalem. The children by his first marriage were Samuel C., Lydia, George, John, Susan and Mary; by the second marriage: William H., Oliver, Henry, Clarissa, Weeden, George and Benjamin. Ezekiel Gardner succeeded the Underwoods on the Potter farm in 1826. His children were Peleg, John, Elizabeth N., Ezekiel W. and Mary E. Daniel G. Weare, an older resident of Ontario County, came to Potter in 1819. He died at the Center in 1863, his wife surviving him several years. Their children were Samuel C., Mary H., Sarah, Caroline, Daniel G., Orrin R. and Delight. Calvin Loomis and Nathan Loomis came to the region about the early years of the present century; thence Calvin came to Potter and occupied the Dr. Harkness place. By his first marriage his children were Stephen, Laura, Norman and Maria; by the second marriage, Erastus, Orrin G. and Luther. George and Harriet (Ross) Hunt, settled on lot 1, range three, in 1820, but soon moved to Jerusalem. Samuel Andrews settled on lot 1, range three, in 1817. He married Emily Waity Briggs, who bore him these children: Amy, Eunice, Mercy, Polly, Sally, Eliza A., Asa, Peleg, Abby, Thomas Jefferson and Ruth.

Capt. Reuben Carr and his family, accompanied by Gilbert Sherer, the latter a child, located north of Potter Center in 1815. When grown up, Gilbert Sherer married, first Fanny Bordwell; second Minerva Bordwell; and third, Louisa De Voe. In 1860 Mr. Sherer was elected to the Assembly; in 1861 was appointed postmaster at Penn Yan. He was colonel of the 103d N. Y. S. Vol. Infantry regiment. Captain Carr, and

his father, Caleb Carr, were both early residents of Potter. The latter was the father of twenty-two children. He had three wives.

In 1797 Rev. William Hobart with his wife and six children came to Potter, where the head of the family died in 1801. His wife survived him fifty years and died in 1851. The descendants of this family are now scattered throughout the county. John and David Stebbins came to Potter in 1814, and although each had a family, the present representatives of the surname in the town are quite few. Jacob B. Van-Osdol is remembered as having been a tailor in Rushville at an early day; also he is known to have been elected to the Assembly in 1855. Two years later he died. His wife was Hannah Wilder, by whom he had two daughters, Augusta and Maria.

*The Village of Rushville.*—Among the hamlets or small villages of the town of Potter, that called Rushville is of the greater importance, both in point of population and commercial advantage. The village lies partly in this town, while another and possibly a greater part is in the county of Ontario. On the site now occupied by Rushville, south of the line, Elias Gilbert, mentioned on a preceding page, was the first settler, followed soon afterward by the Loomis family. Beza Whitman, whose descendants still live in the town, was the keeper of the first hotel, while Mrs. Seldon Williams figured as the pioneer school-teacher. William and Cornelius Bassett were the first male teachers. Philander P. Woodworth was the first merchant of the settlement, his place of business being in the afterward-called Dr. Bryant House. Mr. Woodworth afterward kept store and hotel on the site yet occupied for the latter use. Chester Loomis succeeded Woodworth in 1815. On the west side of the river a tavern was also early started, and near by was the first school, in which, also, were held the first Congregational Church services. Among the early merchants and business men of the village, there can be recalled the names of Raymond & Sprague, Stillman & Gilbert, John Wisewell, Thomas J. Dudley, Grant Barney, John Clark, Charles W. Henry, Wisewell & Henry, Whitman & Green, Randall Whitman, Dudley & Colt, Dudley & Bailey, Hamlin & Hazen (a branch of the large store at Penn Yan), Judson Jones, Flinn & Dwelle, L. C. Wisewell & Co., Hunt & Armsburger, Mortimer Case, J. H. Beerman, William T. Bassett, George Howell & Son, A. & J. Thomas, and others,

perhaps, whose names have become forgotten. The large and attractive union school building was erected in 1868, at a cost of \$16,000. An important adjunct to the business interests of the village and vicinity was the large steam and water power grist-mill.

*The Congregational Church of Rushville* was organized as early as the year 1802, by Rev. Jedediah Chapman, a Presbyterian missionary. The first members were John and Elizabeth Blair, William and Mary Holton, Nathan and Dorcas Loomis, Jabez and Sarah French, Henry Green, Lydia Black, Mrs. Huldah Williams, Sarah Lukore, Sarah Bassett, Miss Huldah Williams, and Anna Sawyer. From 1803 to 1813 this church was connected with the Ontario Congregational Association, but in 1814 connected with the Geneva Presbytery, and so continued until 1855. The early meetings of the society were held in the old school-house, and occasionally in other places, and in 1818 the brick church edifice was erected. A plain, substantial building it was and answered the requirements of the congregation for many years without material repair. It was substantially remodeled, however, during the pastorate of Rev. S. S. Hughson. The early ministers or pastors of the Rushville church were Jedediah Chapman, Abijah Warren, Reuben Parmalee, Joseph Merrill, David Page, Joseph Brackett, Henry P. Strong, Maltby Geltson, S. S. Hughson, W. A. Smith, Orrin Place, W. Kincaid, and others. The present church membership numbers about 175 persons.

*Rushville Methodist Church.*—Although Methodist missionary services and preaching were held in and near Rushville about as early as elsewhere in the north part of the county, it was not until the year 1824 that a society of this denomination was in fact formed. The residence of pioneer Michael Pierce appears to have been the home of Methodism in the town, and here the first meetings were generally held. Gideon Lanning and Robert Parker were the first preachers in the locality, while E. Streeter was the first class leader. Later meetings were held in the old school-house and at the home of J. A. Peabody, one of the original members. In 1830 the first church edifice was built, but enlarged a few years later. It was dedicated January 25, 1832, by Rev. John Copeland. Prominent among the early members and founders of the church were Mr. Streeter, Samuel Whitman, John A. Pea-



body, Philo E. Brown, Jesse C. Boardman and family, Ira Fairbanks, Dr. Buffam Harkness, Job Pierce, John Sanders, Nathaniel Loomis, and G W. Cole. In 1835 the circuit took the name of Rushville and Bethel, and Ira Fairbanks, John Easter, and R. Harrington were the preachers. Following them came in succession, Gideon Lanning, Z. J. Buck, J. C. Kingsley, Abner Chase, Orrin Trowbridge, Samuel Parker, Joseph Chapman, Calvin Coates, Philo Brown, David Nutten, Manly Tooker, Robert Parker, J. W. Wilson, M. Wheeler, J. Landreth, E. Wood, A. L. Fillmore, N. N. Beers and others. In February, 1868, the beautiful new church edifice was dedicated by Bishop Simpson. It was commenced in 1866, and completed during the next year, costing \$23,000. The present church membership numbers nearly 250.

Among the early settlers in Potter were several families who favored Universalism. Edward Perry was a leader among them. Between 1830 and 1840 a society was formed and built a church at Rushville, but after about fifteen years of unfruitful effort the society was disbanded.

*Potter Center*, which, as the name indicates, is near the center of the town, westward of Flint Creek, is not more than a hamlet, or convenient trading point for residents in the surrounding country. Its business industries have been but few, there not having been more than one or two stores in operation at any one time, while a single hotel affords ample accommodation to the wayfarer. The dwellings in the hamlet proper number not to exceed twenty. But the Center has two prosperous church societies.

*The Second Methodist Church of Potter* ultimately became the first Methodist Church of Potter Center, being a removal of the Nettle Valley society to this point as a place of worship, in 1865. The Nettle Valley class was formed in 1815, numbering among its members, William Gurnsey and wife, Samuel Wyman and wife, Israel Hobart and wife, Ephraim Kinney and wife, James Hardy and wife, Joseph L. Hobart and wife, Potter and Jabez Card, Sarah Hull, Eleanor Parsons, and Thomas, Pardon, Martha and Sophronia Wilson. A legal organization of the society was perfected in April, 1827.

The first meeting-house of the society was built of logs, but in 1838 this gave way to a neat frame church, costing \$1,400. Also in 1838 a

part of the society's grounds were set apart for burial purposes. In 1855 the society purchased the old Baptist meeting-house at the Center, repaired and remodeled it, and occupied it in future. The old church in the Valley was then sold.

There have been two Free Baptist Societies in the town of Potter, the one known as the North Free Baptist Church, which merged into the Free Baptist Church of Potter, the surviving organization. Free Baptist preaching began in the town in December, 1824, and the results of subsequent frequent revivals brought into the membership of the society nearly 400 persons, making it one of the strongest denominations of the township. The North Church united with the First Church in 1860. The first church was built in 1840. The Sunday school of this society was formed in 1825.

The Yatesville Methodist Church of Potter had its origin in the early meetings held in the locality as early as 1817, resulting in the forming of a class, but it was not until October 29, 1832, that the society was organized according to law and duly named Yatesville Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Among the early prominent members of the society can be recalled the names of Asa Brunson and wife, Abel Trask and wife, James Harley and wife, Daniel Harley and wife, Achilles Comstock, Elnathan Botsford and wife, Israel Arnold and wife, Baxter Hobart and wife, Ephraim Wheeler and wife, Webster Winn and wife, Joshua Stoddard and wife, Stephen Wyman and wife, and others. The early meetings were held in a store and shop until the school-house was completed. In 1837 the church edifice was built for the society. In 1865 the Yatesville Cemetery Association was organized, and thereafter purchased a tract of land just west of the church. Israel Comstock was the first person to be buried in this cemetery.

In the town of Potter and in the towns adjoining have settled a number of Catholic families. To supply their spiritual wants a parish has been organized embracing the region, and the Catholic Church is also to be numbered among the institutions of the township.

*Civil History.*—Among the pioneers and early settlers in the town prior to its erection as Potter, there may be recalled the names of a number of persons who were appointed or elected to office. Nathan Loomis was justice as early as 1797, followed soon afterward by George

Green. Abiel Thomas held the same office in 1803, and thereafter at various times until 1820. Arnold Potter was likewise justice, and also associate justice of the Ontario County Courts, the latter as early as 1795. John Griffin was justice in 1808, and again in 1811. He also was judge. Jabez French was justice in 1814 and 1816.

At the first town meeting in Potter these officers were chosen: Supervisor, William L. Hobart; town clerk, Ambrose S. Thomas; justices, Jeremiah Barber, John H. Gleason and Isaac Secor; assessor, James P. Robinson; commissioners of highways, Alexander Sutherland, David J. McMaster and Orrin Stebbins; overseers of the poor, Mark Weare and Abraham Reddout; commissioners of schools, Augustus Torrey, James P. Robinson, Jesse D. Casey; inspectors of schools, Noah Robinson, Titus Gilbert, Alexander McDonald; collector, Hiram Torrey; constables, Richard Green, John Ansley, Joseph A. Lee; sealer of weights and measures, John Wisewell.

*Supervisors of Potter.*—William L. Hobart, 1832–35; Henry Husted, 1836–37; James Hermans, 1838–41; Ambrose S. Thomas, 1842–43; Gilbert Sherer, 1844–45; John Wisewell, 1846–47; Ira D. Bryant, 1848–49; Henry Torrey, 1850–51; Elnathan R. Hunt, 1852; Isaac Lane, 1853–54; Ambrose S. Thomas, 1855, 1860; George G. Wyman, 1856–57; Ephraim C. Mower, 1858–59; John Halsted, 1861–62; Hiram Keeney, 1863–64; Whitford B. Wyman, 1865; Jareb Bordwell, 1866–67; Charles Olmsted, 1868–69; Peter L. Dinturff, 1870–71; John Sutherland, 1872; George T. Wyman, 1873–74; Timothy M. Blodgett, 1875; James R. Bordwell, 1876–78; John J. Best, 1879; William A. Carson, 1880–81; David M. McMaster, 1882–83; Jabez F. Hobart, 1884–86; Miner Loomis, 1887–88; John R. Gardner, 1889–90; George S. Goodrich, 1891.

*Justices of the Peace.*—Jeremiah Barber (elected), 1833, '36; John H. Gleason, 1833, '37, '43, '45; Isaac Secor, 1833, '39, '43, '47; Augustus Torrey, 1834, '38, '42; Isaac Lane, 1835, '53, '55; John J. Schenck, 1840, '44; Baxter Hobart, 1841; Jacob R. Van Osdol, 1846; Andrew W. Rector, 1848; Oliver Underwood, 1849; John Sayer, 1850, '54, '58, '66, '70; John Sutherland, 1851, '69; Jareb D. Bordwell, 1852, '56, '60; James Conley, 1853, '57, '61, '67; Horace Underwood, 1859; James O. Fanning, 1862; John W. Payne, 1863; Chauncey O. Hoyt,

1864; James C. Briggs, 1865; Milton Shutts, 1867, '68; Sanford D. Strobridge, 1871; F. C. Hobart, 1872; John Voak, 1873 (full term); Milton Shutts (vacancy); Nathaniel Green, 1874; John Sutherland, 1875; Milton Shutts, 1876; James C. Briggs, 1877; N. H. Green, 1878, '82; John Voak, 1879 (full term); James Conley (vacancy); F. C. Hobart, 1880, '84, '88; L. W. Lane, 1881; James Conley, 1883, '87; Lewis M. Rugar, 1885; Frank Fairchild, 1886; George R. Ingram, 1889; William S. Hine, 1890; John Voak, 1891.

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## CHAPTER XXVII.

### HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF MIDDLESEX.

THE town of Middlesex as at present constituted occupies a position in the extreme northwest corner of Yates County, and is therefore more remote from the county seat than any other of the county's subdivisions. Originally this town was a part of the district of Augusta, and as such embraced a much greater area of territory than was comprehended by Middlesex proper. The district was known as Augusta from 1797 until 1808, and then changed to Middlesex; but prior to the formation of Augusta the region was a part of the still older district of Canandaigua. This latter creation followed soon after the erection of Ontario County.

In 1789, by a deed executed July 15, Thomas Maxwell sold to Arnold Potter all of township eight of the second range (Potter), and all that part of township eight of the third range which lay east of Canandaigua Lake. The area of territory embraced in this sale was estimated at 35,040 acres, but in fact was 42,230 acres. The consideration paid Maxwell was £991, nine shillings, three pence. But there appears to have been some question regarding the validity of Arnold Potter's title from Maxwell, to settle and perfect which Oliver Phelps, in 1798, quit-claimed to Potter the same lands at the express consideration of \$10,000; but which consideration as a matter of fact is understood as not having been actually paid.



From the time of the purchase by Arnold Potter down to the year 1832, this region was almost exclusively called by the name of "Potterstown," in honor of its proprietor. In 1832 the territory was divided, and all of township eight of the second range, except one tier of lots on its west side, one half-mile in width, was erected into a new town by the name of Potter. There was annexed to Potter from Middlesex, in 1856, six lots in the southeast corner of the latter. This was done for the accommodation of the residents in the locality so annexed, they finding it preferable to transact town and other business in the town of Potter.

While Middlesex is perhaps the most remote from the county seat of any of the towns of Yates, it by no means follows that it is a town of small importance. In common with some of the larger and wealthier towns, Middlesex enjoys the benefits of having its entire western boundary on the waters of Canandaigua Lake, in which respect it stands alone among the towns of the county. A somewhat facetious remark concerning the general character and quality of the land in Middlesex was to the effect that nothing but "eagles and angels" could subsist there, but the changes and improvements of a half century and less have demonstrated the fact that this town possesses natural and acquired resources far superior to some of the more fortunately situated towns of the county. Vine Valley, so called, is a veritable Eden, prolific in its grape product to a remarkable degree, while along the entire lake front in the town both the fruit of the vine and the abundant yield of the farm mark this as a town of worth and wealth.

The principal elevations of Middlesex are Bare Hill and South Hill, both commanding heights, the former reaching nearly 1,000 feet above the lake, and the latter some 200 feet higher than its companion. Between these marked elevations courses the little stream known as Boat Brook, and in the valley of the brook is located the rich vineyard lands above referred to. The name Boat Brook is said to have been given this creek by the early surveyors of the town lands, who were in the habit of stationing their boats in its waters near its mouth. The name Bare Hill was given the north elevation by the pioneers from the fact that its summit was nearly or quite destitute of forest growth, while large stones, boulders and rocks were plentiful on every side. But there was a reason for this unusual condition of things, which reason rests in

a very pretty and interesting, and possibly thrilling tradition, handed down from old Senecas to their children, and by the latter related to the white pioneer settlers. But the chief beauty and charm of the tradition to intelligent persons rests altogether in the absolute unreasonableness of the story. The myth has often been related and frequently published, but a history of Middlesex without the famous legend of Bare Hill would be faulty indeed. It runs somewhat as follows :

The Seneca tribe of Indians sprang out of the ground at Nundawao, the site of their oldest village near the head of Canandaigua Lake and on a high hill. In the course of time a mighty double-headed snake or serpent made its appearance and extended its body entirely around the hill, threatening the Indians with total destruction. All were killed but two, an Indian warrior and his sister. At length the warrior had a dream, and he was told that if he would fledge his arrow with hair from his sister's head the charm would be secure and would prevail ; and that he should shoot the arrow from his bow directly at the heart of the serpent, and have no fear from the two heads and their hissing tongues. He did as he was told, the arrow struck the heart, and the monster, uttering fearful hissing noises, rolled down the hill and into the lake. Here it vomited up all the Indians it had swallowed, and then disappeared beneath the water's surface never to return. Thereafter the Indian village was abandoned and its people betook themselves to Kanandesaga (Geneva). The tradition also has it that the trees of the hill were likewise destroyed by the snake, and that the multitude of stones were but the heads of the dead Indians. The Senecas in this extinct village called themselves Nundawao, Nundawagas—People of the Hill. However doubtful may be the truth of the story, the fact admits of no question of an Indian occupancy in this region or on Bare Hill. There are yet discernible straggling evidences of an ancient fortification on the hill, while in the valleys below, and along the shores of the lake have been found abundant proof of the Indian presence ; and it is asserted by well-informed minds that in this town have been discovered evidences of pre-historic occupation, by a race of people of characteristics different from the Indian's, and of a higher order of intellect and handicraft. But this is a subject that cannot be discussed here, for the evidences produced during the last half century throw no light upon the discoveries of earlier investigators.

## *HISTORY OF YATES COUNTY.*

The principal water course of Middlesex is West River, and in fact this is the only stream of importance within the town. It has its source in Ontario County, and enters Middlesex at its northeast corner; thence flows a generally southwesterly course across the town and into Italy, where it turns abruptly north and discharges into Canandaigua Lake. The village of Middlesex Center lies on West River, and near the geographical center of the township.

Arnold Potter made his purchase of the lands that now comprise Middlesex in 1789; and during the same year the territory was surveyed into ranges and farm lots by Perley Howe. The ranges run north and south, and the farm lots east and west. However, on two after occasions the lands of the town were re-surveyed and re-lotted. More than this, large tracts passed into different ownerships, and were surveyed and lotted according to their situation or as best pleased the fancy of their proprietors.

The early settlement of the town of Middlesex was not unlike that of other towns of the region. The coming of the Potter family to the vast purchase, and the offering of the lands for sale at exceeding low prices, had the effect of rapidly bringing settlers to the town even before the beginning of the present century; and although distant as it may have been from the first settled community occupied by the Friends, this locality was taken and improved generally earlier than the more accessible towns now called Barrington, Starkey, Western Milo and Jerusalem. Prominent among the pioneers of Middlesex were the families of John Walford, Benjamin Tibbetts, Michael Pierce.

John Walford was a Rhode Islander, and came to the Potter tract in 1789, and a few years later made his permanent home where now is the hamlet of Middlesex Center. His wife died in 1791, and was the first white person buried in the town. John Walford died in 1813. John, jr., and James Walford were the only children in this pioneer family.

Michael Pierce and his family also came from Rhode Island. He bought 400 acres from Arnold Potter, and both he and his wife died in the town, far advanced in years. Their children were Job, Thomas, Samuel, John, Sally and Lucina. Michael Pierce helped to survey the town.

Warham Williams, a native of Connecticut, was one of the pioneers

of the town, settling first on lot 10, farm range four, but afterward moving to the Walford locality on the river. His first wife was Sarah Carr, who bore him three children: Huldah, Betsey and Anna. His second wife was Patty Cone, by whom he had seven children: John W., Oliver S., Lucy, Melinda, Eunice, Valona and Caroline.

The family of John Blair settled on Surveyor Perley Howe's lot, in the seventh range, in 1794. His wife died in 1805, and he in 1814. Their children were John, James, Nathan, Warren, Amy and Sally. John, James and Warren Blair served during the War of 1812-15.

In 1806 William Foster and family located on lot 7, range seven, and there lived to the end of his life. He had thirteen children, seven of whom grew to maturity, viz.: Alanson, William, Julia, John, Ira, Martin and Susan. Also in 1806 came to the town Daniel Hawley and family, and located on lot 8, range six, succeeding a still earlier settler, Henry Farout. They had one son, Daniel, jr., who married Sarah Taylor. Of this marriage five children were born, viz.: Charlotte, Daniel, Abigail, Josiah and Thomas H. In the same year, 1806, came from Vermont the family of Asahel Adams and settled on West River. In this family were ten children: Betsey, Chauncey, John, Alta, Cyrus, Polly, Sally, Asa P., Lovell and Cynthia.

Several of the children of Samuel and Rachel Lindsley were among the early settlers in the town, and were afterward followed by their parents. The mother died in 1816, and the father in 1819. The children were Daniel, Samuel, Elizabeth and Benjamin, each of whom had a family in the town. Anson C. Lindsley, the descendant of this pioneer family, has been known as one of the most progressive farmers of the county. Cornelius Sawyer and his family settled on lot 10, range seven, in 1802, and there he lived and died. His children were Sybil, Betsey, Nancy, Olive, Thomas, Cornelius and Prescott. Andrew Christie came to the town in 1812, and occupied lands on which Rufus Gale had made a prior improvement. His children, by a second marriage, were Gilbert, Abigail and James. Thomas Reynolds and family came to the town in 1818, settling on the farm opened first by Nathaniel Weston. In the Reynolds family were ten children: Phebe, Eleanor, Joseph, William, Andrew and Angeline (twins), Sarah, Hannah, Daniel and Thomas. Gideon and Elizabeth (Shields) Salisbury were among the



early settlers of the town, and in their family were ten children. James, Harrington and family came from Bennington County, Vt., in 1818, and located on lot 9, farm range eight. There were eleven children in the family, five of whom only, James, Arvin, Patience, Oliver and Olive, came to this town with their parents.

The locality commonly called Vine Valley, in the town of Middlesex, is not only one of the most interesting areas of the town, but it is one of the most fertile and productive districts, especially in the staples, fruit and grapes, in the whole Genesee country. By reference to the chapter in this work which relates to the vineyards and their products, the reader will learn something of the peculiar value of this valley as a grape producing region. Among the earliest settlers in the valley was Hiram Collins, whose location was near the place afterward owned by Major Hixson. Another pioneer in the same locality, perhaps the first settler, was John McNair, whose farm was on the lake shore, afterward known as the Peters farm. Henry Fuller came into the valley in 1816, from Saratoga. The children in his family were Orrin, Mary Ann, Amanda, Harriet, Jane O. and Sarah. David Spike came in early and settled near the Fullers, but later moved from the town. Samuel Fisk was also an early resident in the same locality. In the same relation may also be mentioned David Farout. John Smith, better known as "Captain" Smith, took up an early abode on Bare Hill, a location best suited to his peculiar character. He was a conspicuous figure in all sports in the community, and was not unknown in some discreditable performances, but crime was not charged against him. He was a rough, uncouth, boisterous fellow, but possessed a good heart and a warm friendship for all who treated him fairly.

In connection with the early and pioneer history of every town there must always be recorded the customary "first events." For those in Middlesex perhaps no more accurate account can be furnished than is found in the report of Edward Low to the County Historical Society, to which the writer is indebted for what follows, although it may be said that new names will appear in addition to those already mentioned in this chapter.

The report discloses that Michael Pierce settled in the town in 1791, followed soon afterward by John Blair, Chester Adams, Thomas and

Joshua Allen and their two sisters, all blind persons, James Westbrook, Solomon Lewis, John McNair, John C. Knowles, Benjamin Loomis, Cornelius Sawyer, Daniel Lindsley, N. Weston, John Walford, Nathan Smith, and others whose names have already been mentioned.

The first justice of the peace, also postmaster, was pioneer Michael Pierce. William Bassett kept the first school in 1798. William Colbert was the first Methodist Episcopal preacher, conducting services at 'Squire Pierce's house as early as 1797, and continuing until a church was built. Daniel Lindsley erected the first frame house, while Chester Adams built the first frame barn. Elias Gilbert started the first saw-mill and a Mr. Fisk the first grist-mill, having horse-power. Warham Williams was the pioneer landlord, and Davis Williams the first blacksmith. John C. Knowles was the first shoemaker. Seth Low married Lois Williams in 1803, the first event of its kind in the town, while to Samuel Pierce and wife was born the first white child, in 1792. Crab-apple cider was made in 1805 at Mathew Smith's primitive mill. Eli Foote was the first merchant. Daniel B. Lindsley built the first brick house. Finally, to bring as prominently as possible to the attention of the reader the names of the early settlers of this region, there is appended hereto a list of the persons resident in old Augusta township in 1798, who were enrolled as qualified to serve as jurors at that time. The list is as follows: J. Lane, A. Vought, J. Latham, William Bassett, N. Weston, J. Craft, Joshua Brown, William Hobart, J. Tucker, M. Holton, Moses Parsons, Abraham Lane, J. Sherman, G. Bates, P. Briggs, jr., Francis Briggs, Jabez French, J. Walford, E. Cross, David Southerland, Jesse Brown, Jonas Wyman, Warham Williams, Job Card, James Lewis, jr., H. Van Wormer, Rows Perry, John Sheffield, Chester Adams, Michael Pierce, John Blair, sr., Elias Gilbert, Benjamin Loomis, E. Craft, jr., Benoni Moon. But in explanation of the foregoing list it may be stated that Augusta, or even the original Middlesex township, represented a much larger area of territory than the present Middlesex; wherefore it is not to be assumed that all the persons just named were residents of the town within its present limits.

Middlesex has been since its earliest settlement a peculiarly agricultural township, and in the pursuit of husbandry has the success of the town become established. Half a century ago legitimate agriculture

was the only occupation of the people, but within the last quarter of a century the farmer's mind and calling has been diverted somewhat into other channels of trade and following, in that the region bordering particularly on the lake has been turned from farms into extensive vineyards. For years the production of grapes and fruits has been far more pleasant and agreeable to the land owner, and, what is still better, more profitable. But this subject is made one of special and individual mention in one of the earlier chapters of this work, and therefore need not be pursued further in this connection.

The only settled locality in the town of any particular importance is that commonly called Middlesex Center; which, as its name indicates, is located in the geographical center of the town. But even the Center has never acquired a sufficient population to entitle it to a corporate municipal organization independent from the township at large. The Center has a population of perhaps 200 souls, and its business enterprises are confined to the neighboring saw and grist-mills, the few mercantile stores, and other necessary appendages of the settlement, the blacksmith, harness, wagon, shoe and joiners' shops. But the Center has its well-ordered and well-governed school, and has had three organized church societies, the Methodist Episcopal, the Baptist and the Free Will Baptist.

The Methodists appear to have gained the first permanent foothold of any of the denominations in the town, their class having been formed as early as 1820, although preaching of this faith was conducted as early as 1797. The first meeting-house of this society was built at Overacker's Corners in 1836, and at a cost of about \$1,000. The leading members at that time were Samuel Fisk, Harvey French, Nathaniel Emory, Nehemiah Beers, Mr. Webb, Ezra Fuller, Jonathan Hawley, Jesse Kilpatrick, Cyrus Adams and others. This society gradually declined, and finally merged into others of more strength. The class at the Center was formed in 1820, with Nathaniel Emory and Durfee Allen among the first class-leaders. The earlier members were Robert McNair and wife, Chauncey Adams and wife, the daughters of Warham Williams, and a few others. The brick church was built in 1841, costing \$3,000, but the organization of the society was effected in 1839, by Abner Chase. The first trustees were David G. Underwood, R. E.

Aldrich, Thomas Seamans, M. B. Van Osdol, D. B. Lindsley, John E. Wager, and Jabez Metcalf. The Middlesex circuit was formed in 1840.

The Baptist Church and society at Middlesex Center had their organization at about the same time as the society in Potter, and was in a measure an offshoot therefrom. The church at the Center was erected in 1840. The church and property of the society represent a value of about \$6,000.

The house of worship of the Free Will Baptist Church at the Center was erected in 1840. It stands in the west part of the village. In the membership of this society are numbered some of the strongest and most influential men of the town.

*Civil History.*—As has already been mentioned in the early part of this chapter, the town now called Middlesex originally formed a part of the provisional district of Canandaigua, and as such formed an integral part of the original county of Ontario. At a little later period the territory of Canandaigua was re-districted, and to the part to which this township belonged was given the name of Augusta. There being another town in this State at that time called Augusta, it was deemed advisable to change the title of the new creation, and this district was in 1808 called Middlesex, but from its earliest settlement down to the formation of Potter, the district was commonly known as Potterstown. In 1823 the county of Yates was organized, principally from Ontario, and Middlesex, then including what became Potter, became a part of the new creation. Potter, as has been stated, was set off in 1832, since which time, except for the six lots of this town which was set off to Potter in 1856, there has been no change in the jurisdiction or territory of Middlesex.

The first town meeting in Augusta was held April 4, 1797, Arnold Potter presiding. These officers were elected: Supervisor, David Southerland; town clerk, Nathan Loomis; assessors, Benjamin Loomis, Joshua Brown and John Blair; commissioners of highways, Arnold Potter, Joshua Brown, Jabez French; constables and collectors, Jonathan Moore, Jesse Brown; overseers of the poor, Chester Adams, Abraham Lane. From this first town meeting to the present time the supervisors of Augusta, succeeded by Middlesex, have been as follows:



David Southerland, 1798-1801; Arnold Potter, 1802, '04, '07; David Southerland, 1805, '06, 1808-14, 1816, 1818-20; Richard M. Williams, 1815, '17; Selden Williams, 1821, '22, 1824-27; James Christie, 1828-30; James Hermans, 1831, '32; Forest Harkness, 1833; Adams Underwood, 1834, '35; Daniel B. Lindsley, 1836, '37, '43, '44; Alexander Bassett, 1839, '40, '45, '49; Henry Adams, 1841, '42; Ephraim Lord, 1846; David G. Underwood, 1847, '48, '53; David Christie, 1850; John Mather, 1851, '52; Oliver S. Williams, 1854; Norman Collins, 1855; Richard H. Williams, 1856, '57; Oren G. Loomis, 1858, '59; Alexander Bassett, 1860, '61; Daniel Bostwick, 1862, '63; Thomas Underwood, 1864, '65, '71; James Stebbins, 1867, '68; John L. Dinturff, 1869, '70; Nehemiah Foster, 1872; Asahel H. Green, 1873-76; Marvin G. Washburn, 1877, '78; Sterlin N. Blair, 1879, '80; Adams Dinehart, 1881-83; Woodworth N. Perry, 1884; Lewis C. Williams, 1885, '86; Alden A. Adams, 1887, '88; Allen Loomis, 1889, '90; Lemuel T. Darling, 1891.

Of the justices of the peace prior to the time when the office became elective, but little appears among the fragmentary records of the town. In fact the records between 1810 and 1830 are missing. However, it is known that Michael Pierce was one of the early justices, as was also his son Job, the latter in 1821, and in 1833; Adams Underwood was justice in 1833 and 1838; Harvey French elected in 1833; Michael Van Osdol, 1834, '39 and '45; Ephraim Lord, 1836, '40, '52, '56, '60 and '64; Thomas Seamans, 1836 and '53; Oliver Harrington, 1838; James Christie, 1840; Lorenzo Hoyt, 1842; Eli Foote, 1842, '46, '53, '56, '61, '64 and '68; David Christie, 1844 and '48; Daniel Bostwick, 1846; William S. Bostwick, 1847; Henry Adams, 1847; John J. Johnson, 1848, '50, '55, '56, '58 and '62; Francis Crakes, 1849; John Cole, 1851; Rufus J. Adams, 1852; Edward Low, 1862; Sterling N. Blair, 1865 and '69; E. B. Lindsley, 1866; A. C. Younglove, 1866 and '67; Levi B. Morey, by app't, 1869, elected 1870; David L. Hobart, 1869; Woodworth N. Perry, 1870, '71, '75; S. T. Sturtevant, 1871, '72, '78; Sterling N. Blair, 1873; Wesley Wagar, 1873; Samuel Foster, 1874; William C. Williams, 1875, '80, '84; William R. Marks, 1876; William Savage, 1877, '81, '85, '89; Bradford Clawson, 1877, '79; Damon Johnson, 1880; Harvey W. Tyler, 1882, '86, '90; E. S. Gates, 1883; Myron F. Hawley, 1887, '91; Bernard Walter, 1888.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

## HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF ITALY.

THE town of Italy comprises a location in the extreme western part of Yates County, and while no more remote from the county seat than the adjoining town of Middlesex, the distance between these points is less easily traveled from Italy on account of the exceedingly rough, rugged and mountainous character of the land surface in the town of which we write. But with all of its great elevations, Italy has agricultural lands of fine quality, and these are found alike in its valleys and on its heights.

The town has two principal water courses, and each of these has its smaller tributaries. West River is perhaps the greater of the large streams, but its course in the town is confined to the northwestern locality, whence it comes from Middlesex, and eventually discharges into the head of Canandaigua Lake. This last named body of water hardly more than touches the lands of this town, and the advantages derived from it are necessarily small. This town, with Potter, are the only two of Yates County that are only indirectly benefited by the lakes of the region, but Potter still less so than Italy. The other chief water course of Italy is the ancient *Ah-ta-gweh-da ga* of the Senecas, but from time out of mind known to the white settlers and residents as Flint Creek. This stream has its source in the southeast part of the town, whence it runs west into the valley, and then takes a northeasterly general course and passes from the town near its northeast corner. This creek, although second in magnitude and volume of water to the West River, has ever been of more importance to the dwellers of Italy, for along its banks the saw-mills have been numbered by dozens, while grist and flour-mills have likewise been maintained thereon to supply domestic demands. And it is a safe assertion to make that there are but few farms in the central, eastern and southwest portions of Italy, the buildings upon which have not been erected with lumber manufactured at some of the mills along Flint Creek. The stream itself is not large, but

its water power has been abundant. It follows the course of a valley through the town, and so continues in the town into which it passes on the north.

Italy Summit is the most elevated height of land in the county, rising above Keuka Lake 1,324 feet, according to the estimate of the late Israel H. Arnold. It is also higher than Canandaigua Lake 1,374 feet, and above Seneca Lake 1,595 feet. It is also more elevated than the extreme height of Bluff Point, in Jerusalem, 613 feet, and above Barington Summit by 404 feet.

Italy Hollow, the only settled hamlet of the town, is the opposite of the Summit, being in the valley of Flint Creek; but this particular locality is not more depressed than its surrounding localities in the same vale, nor is it so much lower than the summit by fifty feet as is the locality of the lake in the town.

If the town of Italy can be said to possess any historic locality, the spot occupied by the famous "big elm tree" must necessarily take precedence over all others. This tree is by far the largest in the county, if not in the region. Its height reaches beyond 125 feet, while in circumference it is almost thirty feet, two feet above ground. It is claimed that this was a council tree, and as such greatly revered by the Indians; but as the Senecas had no village in this locality, it is quite doubtful if the claim has much foundation in truth. As a somewhat jocose wight of the town recently remarked: "What on earth did the Indians know about Italy Hollow? and if they knew of it, what could induce them to come there to hold a council?"

Italy was one of the townships that formed a part of the vast Phelps and Gorham purchase, and in the survey made under that ownership was number seven in the third range. It appears that during the proprietorship of Phelps and Gorham no settlers came forward and expressed a desire to purchase the town or locate on any of its lands. When the proprietary sold to Robert Morris, and the latter to the English syndicate, Italy was one of the towns transferred in the deeds then executed. It thereafter became a part of the Pultney and Hornby estates, each taking alternate lots. The town was surveyed afterwards, and in an irregular and somewhat unaccountable manner. The first was known as Slot's survey, made in 1793, and covered thirteen lots east of, except two, and

lying near Flint Creek, or Potter's Creek, as it was then called. The so-called south survey was made in 1795, and included about 10,000 acres. This tract was again surveyed in 1826. The northeast portion of the town was also surveyed in 1795, designated the northeast section, and containing forty-eight lots of 160 acres each. The "Brothers Tract" survey covered the middle of the town. The northwest section has ever been known as the unsurveyed tract.

*Early Settlement of Italy.*—The pioneer settlement of Italy was not unlike that of other towns in the same general region and similarly conditioned; but here where the physical characteristics of the land were such as to repel rather than invite settlement, it was hardly to be expected that settlement should commence so early and progress so rapidly as in the more desirable townships. The honor of being called "first settler" in Italy appears to have fallen upon John Mower, one of an old surveying party, and acting in the capacity of chain bearer. At the time of his first coming to Italy, in 1790, it is said that Mower was but nineteen years old, and had no family. It is also asserted, or at least strongly intimated, that Mower's settlement at that time was not permanent, and that he made no actual settlement earlier than 1795. His lands embraced 292 acres, lots 6 and 7 of the Slot survey.

William Clark also is said to have come to the town in 1790, locating near Mower, on lot 8. He, too, was a pioneer, and one who had a large family of children. William Dunton settled on lot 30 of the Brothers Tract in 1793, and died there in 1806. In 1796 Edward Low settled on lot 1, Slot Tract. Fisher Whitney located on lot 4 of the same tract in 1800. Fisher Metcalf came to the unsurveyed district in 1805, and ten years later was drowned in Canandaigua Lake.

Jabez Metcalf located on lot 5 of the Sloat Tract in 1807. He was one of the founders of Methodism in the town, and died here in 1859. Jason Watkins came from Massachusetts and settled on lot 2 of Slot's Tract in 1807. He died in 1844. The Parish family, Samuel Parish, his wife, and sons Levi and Reuben, came in February, 1791, and settled at the head of the lake. Edwin R. Parish, a descendant of Samuel, became one of the best and wealthiest farmers of the town. Josiah Bradish located on the Sloat Tract in 1793, but moved from the town in 1806. In 1793 Seth Sprague located on lot 2 of Slot's Tract. His



daughter Olive was the first white child born in this town. Elias Lee settled on lot 3, same tract, in 1800.

The pioneer of Italy Hollow is said to have been a man named Flint, and after him the creek was named. Archibald Armstrong settled here in 1794. He was called "Old Algerine." Alexander Porter settled on the North Survey, on lot 15, in 1794; John Armstrong, on lot 3, in 1795; Stephen and Isaiah Post in 1796; Sylvanus Hastings and John Morris in the same vicinity in 1798; John C. Knowles in 1798; and Jacob Virgil in the same year on lot 7. Andrew Robson, an Englishman, came to lot 38, North Tract, in 1806; Nathan Scott to lot 30 in 1809. John Crouch, prominent in Baptist church history in the town, settled here in 1813; Robert Straughan in 1808, on lot 34 North Tract; Joshua Stearns on lot 11, in 1806; John Brown in 1800, on lot 19; John Hood on lot 23, in 1800.

On the South Survey John Graham, jr., settled in 1812, on lot 39; Benjamin Bartlett on lot 30, in 1811; George Murphy on lot 30 also in 1812; Isaac Barker on lot 39, in 1810; Amos Arnold on lot 38, in 1812; James Fox on lot 30, in 1813; Josiah Barker on the same lot in 1813 also; Elisha Barker on lot 63, in 1814; Daniel Ensign on lot 44, in 1812; James Slaughter on lot 11, 1812; Rufus Edson, jr., on lot 16, in 1809; James Tourtelotte on lot 29, in 1818; William Douglass on lot 17, in 1816; Henderson Cole located on lot 8, northeast section, in 1810; John Craft in 1812, on lot 36; William Green settled on lot 7, North Survey, in 1815; John Green located on lot 28, Brothers Survey, in 1825. Again on North Survey, Charles Hutchins settled on lot 3, in 1815; Thaddeus Parsons on lot 11, in 1809; Charles Mumford on lot 18, in 1819; Joel Cooper on lot 26, in 1818; Charles Clark on lot 26, in 1818; Jeduthan Wing on the south half of lot 26, in 1817; Samuel H. Torrey on the south half of lot 15, in 1812; Samuel Dean, sr., in 1820 on lot 34; Charles Graves on the east half of lot 45, in 1813; Eli Graves on the same lot in 1814; Truman Curtis on lot 31, in 1810; Rufus Razee on lot 42, in 1814; William E. Smith on lot 29, in 1813; Truman Reed on lot 3, in 1815; Josiah Reed on lot 4, in 1814; William Griswold on lot 9, in 1815; Erastus Griswold on lot 9, in 1815; James Kennedy on lot 32, in 1845; John Hooper on lot 50, in 1820; George Nutton on lot 11, in 1823; Hiram Doubleday on lot 9, in 1830;

Daniel Swift on lot 9, in 1830; Thomas Treat on lot 6, in 1817; Daniel Baldwin on lot 44, in 1813; John B. Young on lot 47, in 1823; Heman Squire on lot 10, in 1810; Sherman Stanton on lot 2, in 1821; James Shepherd on lot 17, in 1835; Lucien Anable in 1830 on lot 1; George W. Horton on lot 18, in 1835; Ira Bassett on lot 33, in 1835; Theodorus Northrup on lot 29, in 1830; Jacob Thomas on lot 39, in 1830; Thomas W. Teall on lot 25, in 1840; William C. Keech on lot 36, in 1823.

On the South Survey, James Scofield settled on lot 3, in 1812; William Smith on lot 29, in 1814; Daniel Smith on the same lot; Chester Smith on lot 30; Elisha Pierce on lot 3, in 1816; Holden Stone on lot 4, in 1816; Asahel Stone on lot 39, in 1815; David Burke on lot 9, in 1820; Philip Cool, jr., on lot 3, in 1820; James Packard on lot 39, in 1819; Jesse McAllister on lot 39, in 1821; David Fisher on lot 50, in 1820; Felix Fisher on lot 55, in 1821; Jeremiah Fisher on lot 44, in 1823; James Fisher, in 1820; William Fisher on lot 48, in 1821; Dr. Elisha Doubleday on lot 2, in 1820; Christopher Corey on lot 18, in 1820; Randall Hewitt on lot 5, in 1818; Solomon Hewitt on lot 19, in 1820; Alexander V. Dean on lot 13, in 1825; David Elliott on lot 22, in 1821; Peter Elliott on lot 23, in 1821; Joseph Squier on lot 28, in 1822; Samuel Barker on lot 63, in 1817; Orlando Barker on lot 56, in 1830; Enoch Barker on lot 43, in 1820; Reuben Wheaton on lot 18, in 1821; Avery Herrick on lot 49, in 1819; Garrett Van Ripper on lot 49, in 1830; Levi Wolvin on lot 17, in 1830; Henry Kirk on lot 25, in 1822; Stephen Marsh on lot 25, in 1817; Ebenezer Arnold on lot 22, in 1820; Adolphus Howard on lot 22, in 1820; Jabez Gillett on lot 46, in 1832; Charles G. Maxfield on lot 41, in 1834; Moses W. Barden on lot 36, in 1840; Anson Clark on lot 51, in 1835.

Among the other early settlers in the town, whose names have not been already mentioned, were William J. Kinney on lot 34, in 1815; Russell A. Mann in 1824; Henry Henneberg in 1820; Stephen Johnson on lot 11, Chipman's Survey, in 1819; Stephen Hendricks on lot 12, of the same; Hugh Burns; Henry Roff, jr.; Worcester Burke in 1817; Alanson Packard, the cloth dresser; Edward Markham, who bought the first Joshua Stearns farm; John Chase, the mason and shoemaker, in 1830; Smith McCloud, formerly of Starkey; Nehemiah and

Leonard White, in 1820; Michael Maxfield, the tailor, in 1819; Abraham Maxfield, the merchant and miller, in 1821; Ichabod Randall, clothier; Reuben Durkee, clothier; Asa Butler, harness and saddlemaker; Bradley Woodworth, tailor; Amos Peabody, tailor; Weldon, Gallup, settler on lot 60, northeast tract, in 1822; Simon P. Cookingham on lot 31, North Survey, in 1830; Joseph De Wick on lot 16, same tract; Benjamin Dumbolton, in Italy Hollow in 1823; Alfred Pelton, who lived with Adolphus Howard; Cornelius Bassett on lot 1, of the Brothers Survey, in 1835; Martin Flowers on lot 12, in 1838; Henry Crank on lot 9, in 1836; William Bassett on lot 4; Abram I. Van Ordstrand on lot 5, in 1832; Russell Burnett on lot 4, in 1832; James G. Williamson on lot 3; Luther B. Blood, settler on Italy Hill in 1832.

These who have been named on foregoing pages were the pioneers of the town of Italy, and upon them fell the burden of clearing the vast forest growths and making the land fit for cultivation. That they were a determined, sturdy set of men is evinced by their works. Italy offered no inducements as a place of settlement and abode, or even of speculation, but the labors of the pioneer brought good results in the the course of time, and the town soon ranked favorably with others of the region in agricultural products. In 1800 the town had a population of 259, or about forty or fifty families. Forty-five years later the census enumeration showed the maximum population of 1,698. From that until the present time there has been a general decrease, so that at this time the number of inhabitants cannot much exceed 1,300.

*Early History.*—Originally, the lands and territory of Italy were included within the town of Middlesex, as one of the divisions of Ontario County, and so organized in 1789. The name was changed to Naples in 1808, and so remained until 1815, when the district was divided and Italy set off as a separate town. The name is plain, but why applied to the town is a matter on which there appears to be no reliable authority extant. The town was taken into Yates County upon the extension and organization of the latter in 1823. The succession of supervisors who have represented Italy in the county legislature has been as follows: Asahel Stone, jr., 1815, '16; Jabez Metcalf, 1817-20, '24, '27; Randall Graves, 1821-23; Elisha Doubleday, 1825, '28, '42; Harvey Roff, 1826; Abraham Maxfield, 1829, '30; Elisha Barker,

1831, '32, '35, '40; David Burk, 1833, '34, '36, '37, '46; Nathaniel Squire, 1838, '39, '50, '51; Spencer Clark, 1841; Lewis B. Graham, 1843, 1853-55; Stephen Mumford, 1844, '45; Henry Hutchinson, 1847, '48; David Smith, 1852, '56; William Scott, 1857, '58; Alden D. Fox, 1859-62, 1864-67; William S. Green, 1863; Bradford S. Wixsom, 1868-70; Joel M. Clark, 1871-74; Francis M. Kennedy, 1875-77; Ithamar Clark, 1878, '79; Absalom C. Law, 1880, '81; David Kennedy, 1882, '84; Joseph W. Robson, 1883; A. F. Robson, 1885, '86; James S. Paddock, 1887, '88; Harvey M. Clark, 1889, '90; Alden D. Fox, 1891.

*Justices of the Peace.*—Prior to the election of justices of the peace that office in the town was held by appointment by Jabez Metcalf, Asahel Stone, jr., Henderson Cole, Henry Roff, jr., and James Fox. Subsequent elections have been as follows: James Fox, 1830, '31, '35, and '39; Orison Graham, 1830; Elisha Doubleday, 1831 and consecutively forth to the time of his death, in 1863; Jabez Metcalf, 1830; Valentine Graham, 1834; Edward Low, 1834, '38, '42; Holden T. Wing, 1838, '42; Henry A. Metcalf, 1843; Lewis B. Graham, 1844, '48; Martin N. Flowers, 1846; George W. Barker, 1848; William Scott, 1849, '53, '60, '64, '69; Philip Paddock, 1851; Edward H. Beals, 1852; Israel Chissom, 1852; Gilbert Graham, 1855; Erastus G. Clark, 1855, '59, '63; Charles G. Maxfield, 1857; Lucien Annable, 1858, '62, '66, '72; Guy L. Doubleday, 1864, '68; John W. Mower, 1864; Joel M. Clark, 1868; William C. Williams, 1868; William Scott, 1871, '78; Ezra Squires, 1871, '77; Frank H. Smith, 1873; Joel M. Clark, 1874, '82, '86; Chester Stoddard, 1874, '77; Bradford S. Wixsom, 1875, '79, '83, '87, '91; Elnathan Mead, 1876; Guy D. Wixsom, 1879; David Wolvin, 1880, '84, '88; James Shaw, 1881, '85, '89; James S. Paddock, 1890.

*Ecclesiastical.*—As has been said of many other towns in Western New York, may also be said of Italy, that the first denomination to obtain a prominent foothold therein was the Methodist. In this town, conceded to be one of the latest in settlement in the county, a class was formed in Italy Hollow as early as 1813. Robert Graham, Caleb Crouch, Henry Roff, sen., Philena Edson, Bazaleel Edson, Amos Arnold, Adolphus Eaton, Orison Graham, Worcester Burk, Benjamin Bartlett, James Scofield, nearly all of them heads of families, together with mem-



bers of their families, and others as well, were prominently associated with the class at that time and in years following, prior to 1823. The church edifice was erected in 1856, and in its steeple was placed the bell of the older church at the county seat.

The Italy Hill Methodist class was formed and organized at Jerusalem in 1828, and in 1842 was moved to the Hill. Three years later, and at an expense of more than \$2,000, the church was built. The first trustees of the Hill society were Joel Ansley, James Haire, Stephen Mumford, Albert R. Cowing, Dr. Elisha Doubleday, Benjamin Stodard, Rowland Champlin, jr., Bazaleel Edson, and Nathan Benedict.

In 1816, under the ministrations of Elder Jehial Wisner, the Baptist Church of Italy Hollow was organized. The early meetings were held in school-houses, but about the year 1825 a church home was provided. In May, 1841, a Baptist society, a branch or offshoot of the organization last named, was formed by the Baptist brethren on Italy Hill. Early in 1842 steps were taken toward the erection of a house of worship, the trustees to accomplish that work being Hiram T. Stanton, Levi Wolvin, Edward Squier, Joseph Sturtevant, Asa B. Miner, Abel Gurney, Christopher Corey, Thomas B. Smith, and Luther B. Blood. In 1844 the church was built, and dedicated during the fall of that year.

A Free Will Baptist society was formed in the town in 1826, by Elder Samuel Weare. Among its more prominent members were the Arnolds, the Marshes, the Howards, the Fishers, the Douglasses, the Crouches and others. The society never became prosperous; never built a church, and gradually passed out of existence after about seven or eight years.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

MERRITT, LA FAYETTE.—John Merritt was a worthy man, and one of the earliest settlers in the wilderness which skirted Crooked Lake. He came with his family, La Fayette then being less than a year old, in 1825, from Dutchess County, and purchased a large tract of land, which in a few years he converted into a splendid farm. Here in the town of Jerusalem the child grew to manhood and occupied a part of the homestead while he lived. As a boy he was bright, industrious, temperate and trustworthy, and grew to be a man of integrity, sound judgment and excellent habits. He had a relish for farming, and consequently became skillful in handling soils, stock, fruit trees and vines, and not only made a good living but accumulated a comfortable property. He had an eye to beauty as well as profit and surrounded and decorated his home with many attractive features. His moral sense early led him to enter upon a Christian life and to espouse whatever reforms engaged public attention. When only eleven years of age he united with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, composed of radical abolitionists and temperance people, and thenceforth allowed no occasion to pass without giving his testimony against both slavery and intemperance. He remained a member of this church until slavery was abolished and the church was disbanded, when he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church in Penn Yan, of which he remained a consistent member until his death.

When thirty-four years of age he was united in marriage with Miss Hannah Bennett, of Milo, who, with one son, survives him, occupying the homestead he did much to beautify, and enrich with comforts.

Mr. Merritt was instinctively honest, honorable and kind, and frowned upon all injustice, oppression and coarseness in speech, or conduct. Vulgarity and rudeness he loathed and sharply rebuked. His word was as good as his bond and his honor above reproach. He had a lively taste for the beautiful and orderly, and impressed his ideas and

feelings upon his farm, vineyards and residence. Whatever promised good to society, especially to the young, was sure of his warm support. When it was proposed to found a college on the shore of Lake Keuka, near his home, where the youth of both sexes should be educated at a cost within the reach of those in moderate circumstances, he entered into the scheme with enthusiasm, devoting both time and money to give it success. Every thing said or done by his neighbors to promote the enterprise gave him pleasure, and whatever occurred which tended to obstruct or hinder the work distressed him. Indeed he was so sensitive to all social or political events as to render them largely personal to himself. Whatever was calculated to benefit humanity delighted him and all harmful things caused him pain, down to the close of life, which came on the 22d day of April, 1891.

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SHELDON, ELI, was born in Suffield, Hartford County, Conn., on the 6th day of November, 1799. He was the son and eldest of ten children born to Eli and Cynthia Sheldon. The parents were poor and had not the means to provide for their children either a suitable education or to establish them in any business. Eli, our subject, was early put to work at whatever he could find to do, and so passed the years prior to his majority. When a young man he came to New York State, living for a time in Cayuga County, but afterward and in 1819 coming to the little village of Penn Yan. Here he found employment in the store of William Babcock, then the leading merchant of the locality.

Young Eli Sheldon proved himself to be an honest, industrious and capable employee, whose service was devoted to his employer's interests, while he at the same time was learning by absorption and observation the rules and principles which were the foundation of his subsequent success and fortune. Mr. Babcock had the greatest faith in Eli's integrity and straightforward honesty, and placed him for a time in charge of a branch store at or near the village of Bath. On returning to Penn Yan, we find him the partner of his former employer, under the firm name of Babcock & Sheldon. By this time our subject had saved a sum sufficient to purchase a partnership interest in the business, and during the continuance of their relations, while Mr. Babcock was the ostensible head of the firm, his young partner was the active business



Engraved by W. H. Smith

*Eli Sheldon.*





man of the house. At a little later period we find Mr. Sheldon the senior member of the firm of Sheldon & Co., doing a general merchandise trade at the northeast corner of what is now Main and Head streets, and whose advertisement in the old *Yates Republican* informed the public at large that the stock of the firm included a general assortment of domestic, English, and East and West India goods. This was in 1824, and although Eli Sheldon was then but twenty-five years of age, he was nevertheless the leading proprietor of the largest and best stocked stores of the county.

Just how long Mr. Sheldon remained in active business life as merchant is now quite difficult to determine, but as his means increased he gradually drifted into other channels, dealing in grain, buying lands, notes, mortgages, and other securities; in fact, any investment that promised a just and substantial return found in him a ready operator. His perceptive faculties were keen and incisive, and his judgment accurate. Therefore he was successful and built up for himself and his family a substantial fortune. But he was not niggardly, nor did he ever exact from the debtor one penny beyond his just due. And in this even he was temperate, often extending the time for payment beyond the day in order to accommodate his friends and neighbors.

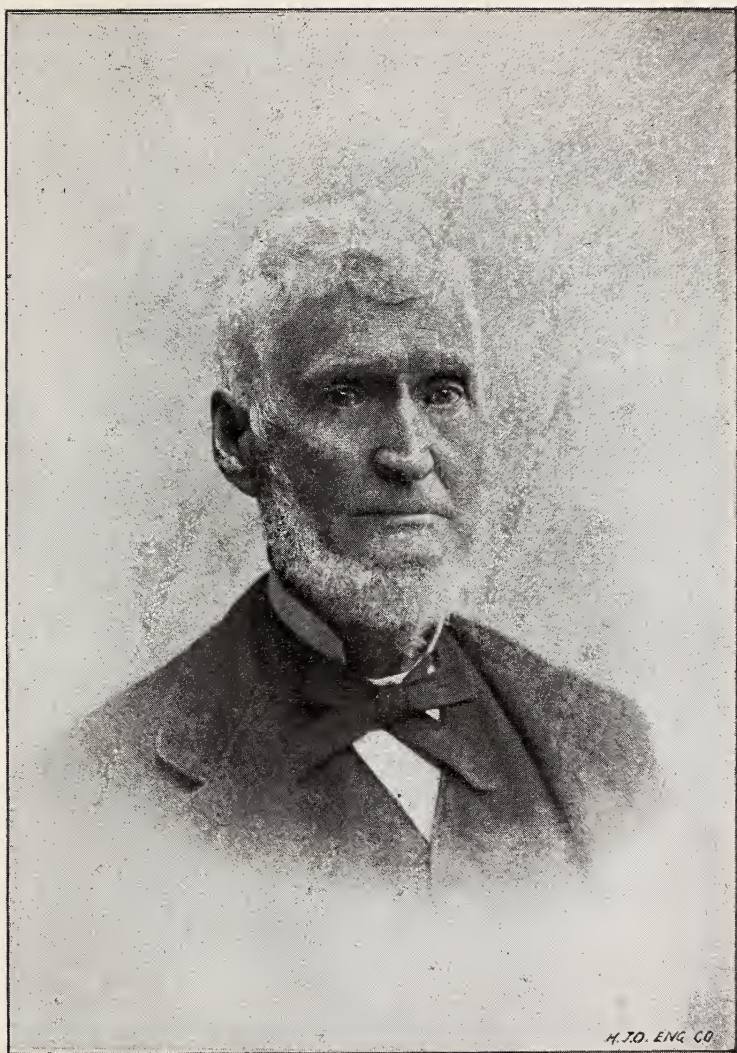
Eli Sheldon was himself a frugal liver, but he was also a generous provider for his family and relations. He gave his aged mother a comfortable support through her declining years, and likewise gave to his sisters and other members of his family and relatives large sums of money to provide for their maintenance or to establish them in business. He was a public-spirited man, interested in every measure having for its end the welfare of the village or county, and while possibly not a leader in such enterprises, his contributions were always generous and given ungrudgingly. He was not a church member, but always gave liberally to the several church and religious societies of the village. In politics Mr. Sheldon was an old time Whig, and afterward became identified with the Republican party upon its organization. He had no political ambition, his interest being that of the citizen and tax payer and not of the office seeker. Still he was presidential elector in 1848.

Eli Sheldon was twice married; first to Sophia H., the daughter of

James Smith, of Benton, by whom he had one child, William Babcock Sheldon, now a resident of Penn Yan. Sophia Smith Sheldon died March 5, 1842. His second wife, whom he married September 14, 1843, was Sarah S., daughter of Morris F. Sheppard. She died October 5, 1849, leaving no children. Eli Sheldon died June 3, 1865. William B. Sheldon, the only child of Eli and Sophia Sheldon, was born July 27, 1839. On the 20th of October, 1864, he married Caroline W. Long, daughter of Nathaniel R. and Caroline S. Long, of Penn Yan, formerly of New York, and by whom he has two children: Ida B., born June 3, 1870, and Eli, born August 3, 1873.

**B**ITLEY, PETER H., of Jerusalem, N. Y., was born at Moreau, Saratoga County, N. Y., in 1801, and was the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Donaldson) Bitley. His ancestors on the paternal side were from Germany, and on the maternal they were of Irish and Holland extraction. His parents were natives of Moreau, N. Y. Mr. Bitley came to Yates County in 1833, being in the employ of Paddock & Nichols, who were lumber merchants of Yonkers, N. Y. He commenced furnishing square timber and spars by contract and delivering same at his employer's dock at Yonkers. In 1843 he commenced operations for himself, buying timber in Yates and Steuben Counties and other localities and shipping to eastern markets by the way of the Erie Canal. His shipments amounted to as high as 300,000 cubic feet in a single year, and averaged, till 1867, when he retired from the lumbering business, 250,000 cubic feet. After 1867 he devoted himself largely to the management of his farming lands. He became a resident of Branchport soon after that place was founded and where he accumulated a large fortune, and was one of its most valued and worthy citizens. Mr. Bitley was a man of large and generous heart, and was noted for his benevolence. He was for many years closely identified with the interests of the Universalist denomination, and mainly through his efforts a church was erected and sustained in the village of Branchport. He gave largely of his means for general religious purposes, and was always a steadfast friend to the poor and needy.

Mr. Bitley married, in 1839, Mary J., daughter of Benjamin Laird. They had one daughter, Mary E., who married, in 1868, Rev. Henry B.



*John Southerland*





Howell. Mrs. Howell's death occurred in 1876. There comes a time when all useful and well-regulated lives must close their earthly career. Mr. Bitley passed away August 12, 1888. His widow still resides at Branchport, lending a helping hand to all those in need of assistance, and enjoying the love and respect of all who know her.

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**S**OUTHERLAND, HON. JOHN, son of Alexander and Mariah (Van Duser) Southerland, was born June 11, 1813, in Potter, N. Y. He was educated at the common schools and has been a dealer in agricultural implements for the last twenty-five years. In politics a Democrat, Mr. Southerland has always taken an active interest in the affairs of this town and county. He has held the office of assessor two years, supervisor one year, justice of the peace four terms, and was elected member of the General Assembly of this State in 1876. He is a member of Milo Lodge, of Penn Yan, F. and A. M. He is also director and stockholder in the First National Bank of Penn Yan. He married first, Elmira, daughter of Oren Bates, of Potter, February 18, 1836, and they had three children, Jane, who married Warner P. Cole; Eliza S., who married John N. Clark; and Oren B. (deceased). His wife died February 27, 1850, and Mr. Southerland married second, Martha, daughter of Peter Furguson of Seneca, N. Y. She died in April, 1890.

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**U**NDERWOOD, OLIVER, son of John S. and Abigail (Herrington) Underwood, and grandson of Samuel C. Underwood, was born in Kingston, R. I., July 1, 1820. In March, 1821, the family emigrated to the town of Potter, N. Y., settling on the tract of land known as the Potter farm, having previously leased this of Judge Potter. Within a few miles of this place he spent his entire life, with the exception of a few years' residence in the town of Jerusalem. Being one of a family of fourteen children, his early advantages were necessarily limited, and his success was chiefly due to self-acquirement, prompted by an indomitable perseverance. Strictly temperate in all his habits, he possessed both mental and physical strength, which were the secret of much of his success as a farmer, which occupation he followed during his whole life. Though not aspiring to public office, he creditably served the people as justice of the peace and commissioner of highways for a number

of years. He was an ardent and active supporter of the Republican party. Being physically disabled to serve his country he demonstrated his hostility to slavery by furnishing a substitute. He married in 1852 Emily R., daughter of William W. and Mary (Perrine) Hankinson, of this town, who died in 1878. He was never a member of any church, but having a common interest in the good of his fellow men, he gave alike to all who sought his aid. He died after an illness of eleven days, of *pyæmia* in 1889, leaving an only daughter, Mrs. Mary A. Goodrich, and two grandchildren, Emily M. and Oliver D.

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CORNWELL, GEORGE RATHBUN, was born in the village of Penn Yan, on the same premises on which he now resides, on the 24th day of February, in the year 1836. He was the son of Dr. William and Sarah (Chidsey) Cornwell, and the eighth of their nine children. His father was born in Delaware County in 1787, and settled in Yates as early as 1809. He taught school for a time, but soon became a medical practitioner, and was in the service as "surgeon's mate" during the War of 1812-15. After his return the hardships of extensive riding that fell to the lot of every early physician induced failing health, and obliged him to leave the practice of his chosen profession. Thereafter he was admitted to the bar and took to the practice of the law. In 1822 Dr. Cornwell represented Ontario County in the Assembly, and was one of the important factors in bringing about the erection of Yates County in 1823. He was considered a man of ability and learning, and was honored and esteemed by his fellow-men.

Sarah (Chidsey) Cornwell was the daughter of Maj. Augustus Chidsey, a former resident of Cayuga County, but later a highly respected citizen of the town of Milo. Her mother's maiden name was Anna Rathbun, a relative of the late Hon. George Rathbun of Cayuga county. She was a woman of uncommon endurance and industry; kind and considerate in her intercourse with others, and faithful to her family to the last degree. She was also one of the thirty-six persons who formed the First Presbyterian Church of Penn Yan, organized in 1822, and was the last surviving original member at the time of her death in 1888.

When our subject was not quite ten years old his father died, leaving to the mother the care and education of a large family of children.

George attended the public schools of the village, a part of the time at the select academic institution conducted by Professor Murray. At the age of seventeen George commenced work as a clerk in the bookstore of Burns & Miller, of Penn Yan, and continued at that employment, though through several changes in partnership, from 1853 to 1858, when, in October of the year last mentioned, he purchased the stock of L. & S. Denton, booksellers and stationers doing business on Main street, next south of the present First National Bank.

In 1864 Mr. Cornwell moved to his present location on the east side of Main street, where he has without intermission conducted business to the present time. In October, 1872, he purchased the block of three stores since known as "Cornwell's Opera House Block."

At the time of starting out to make his own way in business life Mr. Cornwell had little or no capital except his own determination and energy. But what to him was of equal value, he possessed the confidence and respect of the best men of the village.

George R. Cornwell has been known in business circles in Penn Yan for a period of more than thirty years, and in that time he has made an acquaintance throughout the whole of Yates County, and even beyond it, and he has ever been known as a straightforward, reliable and successful business man. Not only is he a man of undoubted worth and integrity of character, but as well a man of rare business ability, tact and judgment. He is what has been aptly termed a "detail man," and would have made a success in any business calling, but his constant familiarity with books, coupled with his naturally studious mind, has peculiarly fitted him for his present occupation, and as well stamped him as a man of superior culture. Naturally enough such a man, with so extended an acquaintance, and having at heart every interest that might tend to promote the welfare of the county or of his village, could not well avoid being drawn somewhat into the field of politics. He is a Republican, and one of the leaders of his party in the county and the congressional district. While he has not made oratory a study, and lays no claim to ability as a public speaker, his services upon the stump have been required by his fellow-workers in every important campaign during the last twenty or more years. In presenting the issues in any canvass Mr. Cornwell speaks with force and directly to the point. He addresses



himself to the understanding of his hearers rather than appealing to their passions, and approaches the subject in hand with dignity, self-possession, and in the light of reason and common sense. Since attaining his majority he has taken an interest in politics, but as a factor therein he has been specially prominent for the last score of years. Still, however much he may have indulged in this direction, the end sought to be accomplished has been more for the benefit of his friends than himself.

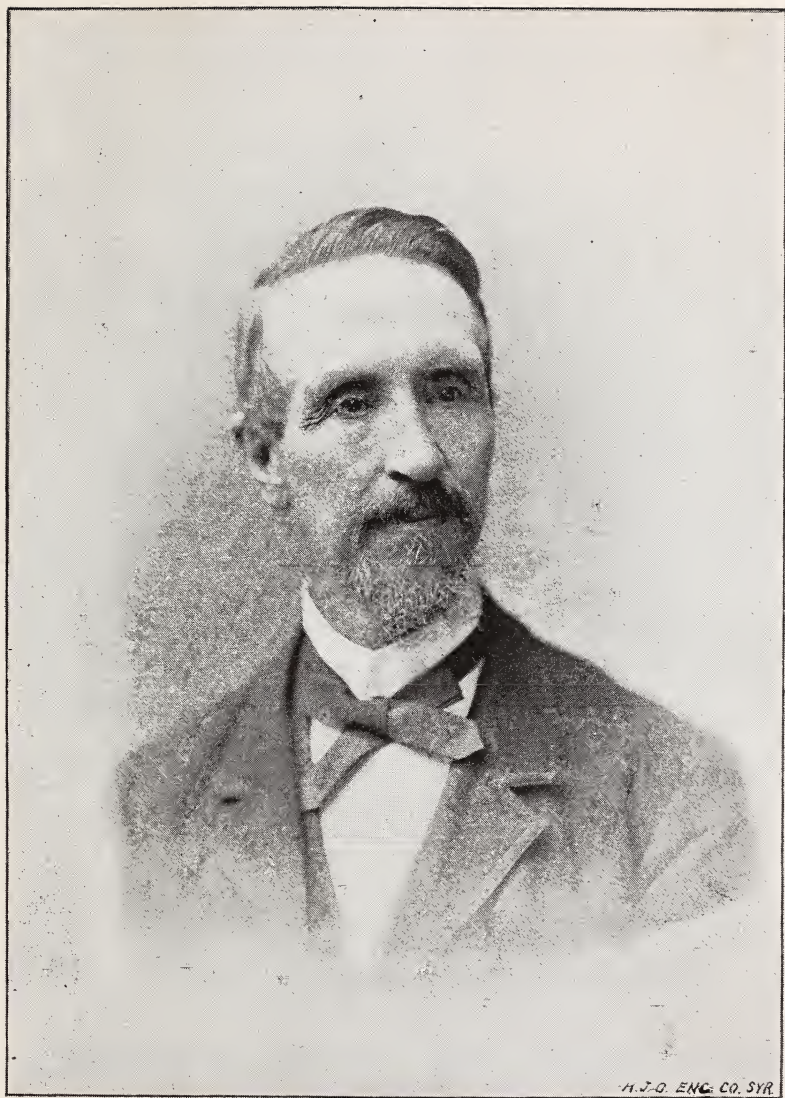
In matters pertaining to education Mr. Cornwell has felt a deep interest. Especially is this true respecting the public schools of Penn Yan. In 1872 he was elected a member of the Board of Education for the village of Penn Yan Union School district, a position he has held from that until the present time. On January 1, 1891, he was elected president of the board, and was re-elected for 1892. That Mr. Cornwell is familiar with the schools, academies and other institutions of learning in this county is fully evidenced in the fact that the chapter on education in this work is from his pen.

George R. Cornwell represented Yates County in the Assembly during the legislative sessions of 1887 and 1888. He was there honored by positions on the Ways and Means, Internal Affairs, Claims, Public Education, and Manufacture of Salt Committees, four of them the most important committees of the House. In 1882, '83 and '84 Mr. Cornwell was chairman of the Yates County Republican Committee. In 1884 he was a delegate to the National Republican Convention that placed in nomination James G. Blaine for the presidency of the United States. The same fall, and again in 1888, he received the delegates from Yates for the nomination of representative in Congress from this district.

For many years Mr. Cornwell has been a member of the Presbyterian Church of Penn Yan, and for the last twelve years has been one of its trustees. For eight years also he was treasurer of the society; was one of the building committee, comprising seventeen members, to superintend the erection of the new church edifice.

On the 11th of November, 1863, George R. Cornwell was married to Catharine E., the daughter of Dr. James Hermans, then of Penn Yan, but formerly of Potter.

The children of George R. and Catharine E. Cornwell are William S.,



John C. Scheetz



Mary E., James H. (married Maud E. Whitaker), Frances E., (wife of Remsen M. Kinne), Catharine E., George R., jr., Sarah H., Hermans Hart, (who died in infancy), and Henry B. All of these children who have attained their majority have received a thorough education. William S., the eldest, is county clerk of Yates County, James H., the second son, remaining with his father in business.

Mr. Cornwell is still in the prime of life—the measure of success achieved by him has been wrought by well-directed thought and action. His family is his greatest ornament, and with that he is content.

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SCHEEZT, JOHN C., was born in Norristown, Montgomery Co., Pa., on the 23d of January, 1813, and was the eldest of a family of five children. His parents were Daniel and Sarah Scheetz, who were born in the same county and State. His grandparents on his mother's side were natives of the same county and State, but his grandparents on his father's side came from Germany. When a boy he went to school and received a common school education.

His father owned a grist-mill and farm, and in 1831 young Scheetz went to work in the mill and continued there until the spring of 1837, when he left home and came to Penn Yan, N. Y. Ezekiel Casner and Aaron Remer then owned the mill known as the Wagner mill, and he went to work for them and continued in their employ until the death of Mr. Remer, after which he purchased his interest in the mill in 1843, and entered into co-partnership with Mr. Casner, under the firm name of Casner & Scheetz, which co-partnership was continued until the death of Mr. Casner in October, 1882.

When they came in possession of the mill the machinery was all wood and pretty well used up (having been built in 1824), so that very soon they were obliged to make a complete repair, which they did in 1846, substituting iron in place of the wood machinery, and adopting all the late improvements at that time. The dam and flume were all of wood, and as the timber was beginning to decay and hardly to be depended upon to hold back the waters of the lake, they decided to construct a stone dam and flume, which they did in 1860 in connection with Jeremiah S. Jillett, who then owned the mill on the south side of the stream.

On the 27th of October, 1841, Mr. Scheetz married Mary Pugh,



daughter of Michael and Jane Pugh, residents of Montgomery County, Pa., and went to housekeeping in Penn Yan, N. Y. The fruits of this marriage were three children, two boys and one girl. The boys died when quite young, but the girl grew up to womanhood and married Leonard A. Clark, of East Saginaw, Mich. In the summer of 1872 his wife was taken sick, and on December 22 died at Ávon Springs, N. Y., where she had gone for treatment. In 1875, October 5, Mr. Scheetz married Lizzie S Yerkes, daughter of William and Sarah Yerkes, all residents of Norristown, Pa. No children by this marriage. In 1883 they sold the mill to Messrs. Russel, Fox & Co., and since then Mr. Scheetz has not been engaged in any active business.

During his residence in Penn Yan he has held a number of town offices, such as trustee of the village, member of the Board of Education, and was several times elected supervisor of the town of Milo, and served in that capacity nearly all through the war, being most of the time chairman of board. Mr. Scheetz is a stockholder and director in the First National Bank of Penn Yan, and he was the first president of that bank.

Mr. Scheetz has been as is still one of the most substantial men of this county, his word being as good as his bond, and has the respect and esteem of all who have the pleasure of knowing him.

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**B**RIGGS, HON. WILLIAM S. The subject of this sketch was born in the town of Milo, on the 30th day of October, 1820, and has lived continuously in the same town from his birth, being one of the best known and distinguished citizens of the county. His parents were David and Anna Briggs, old and respected residents of the county, whom to know was to love.

Judge Briggs entered upon school teaching at the early age of seventeen years, and continued in that work for about four years, during alternate terms of which period he attended school as a student in Lyons, in this State.

In the spring of the year 1840 he took up the study of the law in Penn Yan in the office of the late David B. Prosser, with whom he continued until the year 1844, when he commenced the active practice of his profession with the late Hon. Abraham V. Harpending, although he was not admitted to the profession until January, 1845. In the fall of the year

1846 the law firm of Harpending & Briggs terminated because of the failing health of the latter, which caused him to engage in agricultural pursuits for three years.

In October, 1849, the co-partnership law firm of Prosser & Briggs was formed, Judge Briggs having regained his health and sold his farm. At the general election in the year 1855, Judge Briggs was elected County Judge and Surrogate of Yates County, and was continued in that office by virtue of three additional elections thereto. In 1871, he declined a proffered fifth election, preferring to again resume his place at the bar.

Judge Briggs and John T. Knox, who had read law in his office, commenced doing a general law business on the first day of January, 1872, under the firm name of Briggs & Knox. This co-partnership continued for six years, and proved to be both pleasant and profitable alike to both members, and the firm arose to the first rank in the law business of the county.

But the people demanded that Judge Briggs should again be their servant in the office of County Judge and Surrogate. It, therefore, so happened that Judge Briggs was again nominated to fill that office in the fall of the year 1877, and his partner was at the same time placed in nomination for District Attorney.

The election of either followed almost as matter of course, and so Judge Briggs served a term of six years in that office, the official term having been lengthened since he occupied the office before. At the first of January, 1884, the firm of Briggs & Baker came into existence, the junior member being Charles S. Baker, and continued until Mr. Baker's death, March 27, 1891. After the death of Mr. Baker, a partnership was formed by Judge Briggs and Judge Martin J. Sunderlin, which still exists under the name of Briggs & Sunderlin.

Judge Briggs was called upon to fill several important offices. He was clerk of the village for several years, a trustee of the village, clerk of the board of supervisors of the county from 1852-56, a member of the board of education of Penn Yan Union School District for many years, and vice-president of the First National Bank of Penn Yan from the time of its organization in April, 1873, until the fall of 1885.

Judge Briggs has been three times married. In 1843 he married

Elizabeth S. Dorman, a daughter of the late Joel Dorman. This estimable lady died in the month of May, 1877. By this marriage four children survive: Mrs. Wilson W. Quackenbush, Mrs. Charles H. Ross, Mrs. George R. Wheeler, and William S. Briggs, jr. The second marriage was in April, 1883, with Adelaide L. Post, widow of the late John Post of Geneva, N. Y. This lady died very suddenly on the 19th day of May, 1888. The third marriage occurred in the city of Chicago in October, 1889, with Joanna M. Oliver, widow of the late Gen. John M. Oliver. The parties to this union now have one of the happy homes of Penn Yan.

Judge Briggs is easily one of the first in the profession of law in Yates or neighboring counties of the State. He possesses a sound, reasoning, judicial mind. The ability to weigh legal questions is possessed by him in a pre-eminent degree. Well grounded in the principles of the common law, equity has become his strong point in the practice. His deep research and strict application to the duties of the judicial offices he has filled have tended to make him a sound and safe adviser and counselor. In all these points his ability and penetrating knowledge have become so well known that he has enjoyed the rare distinction of being a chosen referee by the members of his profession in an exceedingly large number of important litigated cases in Yates and surrounding counties.

As a neighbor and friend he has the admiration of all his acquaintances. Clever, kind, tender, all appreciate and love him. He is ever ready to aid the young, while those of his years have his full confidence. As was pronounced of Brutus, so may be truthfully said of Judge Briggs: "His life was gentle; and the elements so mixed in him that nature might stand up and say to all the world 'This was a man.'"

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EARL, JEPHTHAH, SR., was from Wilkesbarre, Pa., where he married, in 1779, Bridget Arthur, he being twenty-two and she being fifteen years old. They settled soon after on two hundred acres, bought of Charles Williamson, about two miles southwest of Geneva, in the town of Seneca, N. Y. He paid four dollars per acre for his land. He worked for Samuel Latta, sometimes for four dollars per month, to raise money to make payments. Their family numbered thirteen, ten of whom reached adult age: Jesse, Clarry, Zeruah, Susan, Fanny and Stephen (twins), Jephthah, Arthur, Matilda, and Laura.



*Stephen Purdy*





In 1821 Jephthah Earl, sr., purchased the mill property and sixty acres of land at Bellona, which he put in charge of his son Jesse. They afterwards purchased a farm known as the Lynn lot, where they removed and remained till 1836, when Jesse sold his interest to his brother Jephthah.

Jephthah, jr., the subject of this sketch, was born June 26, 1806, in Seneca, Ontario County, N. Y., and came to Bellona when he was about seventeen years of age, and worked on the mill property with his brother Jesse, of which they became joint owners by gift of their father. In 1827 he became sole owner, by purchase of his brother. He remained at Bellona until 1830, when he sold the property there and purchased a farm on the west side of Seneca Lake. These premises were but little improved and there was only a log house and frame barn. This barn was one of the oldest, if not the first, built in the town. He erected a distillery and run it on an extensive scale for several years, and also built a storehouse at Kashong Landing, and established a grain market, which proved a great benefit to that community. His brother Arthur was for several years associated with him. They frequently purchased seventy-five thousand bushels of grain in one season, and they were regarded as dealers of probity and responsibility.

In politics Mr. Earl was a lifelong Democrat, but he never had any aspiration for public office. He married Eliza Hutchinson, October 21, 1829. Their children were seven in all, of whom three survive: George W., Edwin L., and Katy A. Mr. Earl was a man of good judgment, a kind neighbor, and a man very much respected by all who knew him. He died September 30, 1891.

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PURDY, STEPHEN, the subject of this sketch, was born in Fishkill, Dutchess County, N. Y., September 17, 1787. Although a native of Dutchess County, yet through a residence of more than forty years in the town of Benton he had endeared to himself his friends and neighbors, and all with whom he held intercourse, by his honest, upright, and conscientious dealings. Being scrupulously nice that every one with whom he dealt should have perfect justice done him, he was soon regarded as one of the safest and best of men to adjust difficulties and differences that arise between man and man in their strife after the

things of the world. Hence his counsels were sought and listened to, and appreciated for their justice, impartiality, and conciliatory bearings. Peace and good neighborhood he always regarded of far more value than pecuniary considerations, whenever his own interests were concerned.

Susan Haight, his wife, was born in Putnam County, N. Y., December 12, 1791; they were married December 22, 1810. In 1812 he came to what is now Yates County, and purchased the farm of Martin Kendig, about a mile southeast of Bellona, in this State. It was a spot "beautiful for situation," overlooking Seneca Lake, where in 1813 he came with his wife and commenced farming on the farm now owned and occupied by his granddaughter, Helen J. B., wife of Cornelius S. Van Wyck, of Dutchess County, and where he was a successful farmer, and died on the farm he originally purchased, at the age of sixty-five years, leaving to his children about 300 acres of land. Stephen Purdy died on January 4, 1853, leaving Susan, his wife, and five children him surviving. Susan, his wife, died at the "old homestead," March 30, 1882, in the ninety-first year of her age.

Maria, the eldest, married Anson C. Loomis, of Phelps, N. Y., who died in 1856, leaving Maria, his wife, who died in 1883. Their children were Van Wyck, William H., and Lafayette.

James H. Purdy, his son, married, first, Harriet Pembroke; she died, leaving one child, a daughter, Jane A., now the wife of George H. Banks; his second wife was Mary A. Lewis, who died, leaving one child, a son, Stewart L. Purdy; he married Josephine B., the daughter of H. Spencer Barnes, who now resides with his father, James H. Purdy, on a part of the original homestead of Stephen Purdy.

Caroline married Henry Barden, M.D. They settled in Penn Yan, Yates County, where he became greatly respected as a man, and in his profession, and died in 1871, leaving his wife Caroline, and two children, a daughter, Helen J., and one son, W. W. Barden, M.D., now occupying his father's place and profession in Penn Yan; the wife now residing with her daughter at the original homestead of Stephen Purdy.

Jane A. married Charles Van Voorhees, of Dutchess County, and remained on the homestead until her death in 1866, leaving no children.

Mary F., the youngest child, married Justus B. Johnson, of Seneca

Falls, where he was a successful business man, and during his later years was a successful banker, accumulating a fine property. His death occurred in 1885.

ANDREWS, HON. J. T. In the year 1812, on the day that war was declared by the United States against England, Ichabod Andrews purchased of Phelps and Gorham 200 acres of land in the town of Reading, five miles south of Dundee. In the spring of the following year the Andrews family, consisting of the parents, five sons and one daughter, removed from Greene County to their new home. The country at that time was an almost unbroken wilderness. Other families from the same locality, including a brother (Amherst Andrews), soon settled in the same neighborhood, which was then and is still known as the Andrews Settlement. The genealogy of the Andrews family reaches back to the early settlement of the country and numbers among its members such names as Aaron Burr and Jonathan Edwards. The family was from sturdy English stock. The mother's family, the Tutties, was more in the clerical line, and has among its members two bishops and several clergymen, mostly Episcopalians. The primitive Andrews house was a "double" log building, larger and better than the houses of most of the settlers. It was a pleasant place of resort for the neighborhood, and to it all were welcome. The nearest post-office was at Havana, twelve miles distant. The only newspaper taken in the settlement was *The Catskill Recorder*, and Mr. Andrews was the only subscriber. Every Saturday John was dispatched to the post-office for the mail; the distance traveled going and returning twenty-four miles. Sunday afternoon the neighbors would congregate and the paper would be read aloud, beginning at the title and ending at the last advertisement. It was during the time of the last war with England and people were eager for the news.

John Tuttle Andrews was born in the county of Greene, N. Y., near Schoharie Creek on the 29th day of May, 1803. His early years were passed among the Catskill Mountains. His early education was obtained in the district school. He was fortunate later in having for his teacher Street Davenport, a whimsical old bachelor, though a thorough scholar and a graduate from some eastern seminary. Under his instruction Mr. Andrews studied the higher branches. In his early years he was en-



gaged in teaching school, and was clerk in a country store. Later he was in the mercantile business with Hiram Chapman as partner, in Irelandville and Watkins. The business was not a success, and in closing it up Mr. Andrews was a heavy loser.

He was married to Ann Eliza Andrews, April 12, 1832. The union was a happy one and continued for forty-three years. Mrs. Andrews died in the year 1875 on the anniversary day of her marriage. One child was born to them, which died in infancy.

Mr. Andrews's political career commenced early in life. His first office was justice of the peace, which office he held until his election to the office of sheriff. He was elected sheriff in 1835 and the following year Representative to the XXVth Congress. *Mr. Andrews was the youngest member of that body, and is now the only one living.*

He lived several years in Bath, N. Y., where he made many friends, not one of them now remaining. Among those friends were John Magee, ex-Lieutenant-Governor Robert Campbell, Judge Edwards, General Marshall, Judge Rumsey, and many others. Mr. Magee was the first to propose his candidacy for representative to Congress. The proposition was a surprise to Mr. Andrews and he reluctantly accepted. There was some dissatisfaction among the older members of the party. They thought that for so young a man he was unduly crowded to the front, that he could afford to wait for political honors. After he had secured the Congressional delegates Mr. Andrews handed to the editor of the *Farmer's Advocate* a note declining the nomination. After consultation with Mr. Magee, Governor Campbell and others, a change was considered not advisable and Mr. Andrews was nominated and elected. He served the two regular sessions and the memorable extra session called by Mr. Van Buren. At that time John Quincy Adams was fighting for the right of petition and the Senate was composed of such giants as Webster, Clay, Calhoun, McDuffee and others.

He came to Dundee somewhere in the "forties." He did not engage in any active business until 1866, when he became a member of the firm of Martin Vosburgh & Co. In 1877 he retired from the firm, and since then has not engaged in business, employing his leisure in caring for his personal estate, and with his library, which is one of the most extensive in the county.

What wonderful changes have occurred during this long life, "looking backward" almost to a former century! The forests have disappeared, generation after generation has been born, has lived and passed away. State after State has been added to the Republic. The map of the world has been changed. At the date of Mr. Andrews's birth Fulton had just perfected a steamboat that would make the magnificent record of four miles an hour. Ocean navigation by steam was not considered possible. Of the present great railroad system there was nothing. Not a railroad, or telegraph, or telephone, or an express company on the earth. What of the next century? Few of us will see it, but we can speculate, and the speculation is bewildering.

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STRUBLE, HON. HANFORD, was born in the town of Milo, Yates County, on May 14, 1842, and was the eldest of three children born to Levi and Mary (Misner) Struble. He was also the grandchild of Adam and Mary (Dean) Struble, pioneers of Milo.

The young life of our subject was spent on the farm, in the common schools of the town, and at the old Starkey Seminary. In 1858 he entered the sophomore class at Genesee College, but left that institution to take charge of the Dundee Academy, as its principal, where he was during the first year of the war of 1861-65. In July, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Forty-eighth Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, and in the designation of company officers, was chosen first lieutenant. After a few months Lieutenant Struble was appointed to a position on the staff of Gen. Egbert Viele, with the rank of major, and served as provost-marshal of the city of Portsmouth, Va. Later he served in the same capacity at Norfolk, on the staff successively of Generals Barnes, Potter, Wild and Voges, and still later as permanent aid on the staff of Gen. George F. Shepley. In February, 1865, he was on duty before Richmond, under General Weitzel, and entered that city with President Lincoln on the 3d day of April following. Major Struble was mustered out of service in December, 1865.

Returning from the South, our subject commenced a course of law study in the office of James Spicer, of Dundee, where he continued one year, then entering the Albany Law School, and from which, he was graduated in the spring of 1868, receiving the much coveted "sheep

skin" from the General Term of the Second Department, at Albany. Counselor Struble at once commenced the practice of law at the county seat of Yates County, in partnership with A. V. Harpending, a leading lawyer of the place. In 1871 Mr. Harpending died, after which Mr. Struble continued practice alone until was formed the law partnership with the late Charles Baker, followed by another of the same character with James Spicer, the latter being formed in 1877, and continuing until Mr. Spicer moved to Dundee to organize the National Bank at that place.

In the fall of 1869, and again in 1872, Mr. Struble was elected district attorney for Yates County. In 1874 and 1875 he represented the county in the lower house of the State Legislature. In the fall of 1883 he was elected county judge and surrogate, and re-elected in 1889 at the expiration of his first term of office.

It will be observed from this that Judge Struble has not been a passive actor in Yates County politics, and he himself would hardly care to be known in that uncertain political relation. As a matter of fact Hanford Struble is a frank, outspoken and aggressive Republican, and one whose voice has been heard on the stump in every town in the county, and occasionally beyond its borders. On all the political questions of the day he entertains clear and well settled convictions, and is perfectly free in the expression of them; yet he is never abusive of the opposite party, its candidates or principles. And what is true of him in the field of politics, will also apply to his character as a lawyer, or as a judge upon the bench. In the latter capacity especially is Judge Struble considerate of the rights of the contending parties, his rulings fair and his charges clear and close to both facts and law.

Hanford Struble commenced his political career almost immediately upon his admission to the bar. In 1868 and 1869 he was clerk of the Board of Supervisors. In the fall of the latter year he was chosen chairman of the Republican County Committee, and held that position six or eight years. The same fall he was elected public prosecutor for the county, serving thereafter two full terms; was next elected to the Assembly, followed by his final elevation to the County Court bench, as has been narrated.

On June 30, 1868, he was married to Laura Backus, the daughter of Clinton C. Backus, of Canandaigua. Of this marriage one child, Clinton Backus Struble, has been born.

ELLSWORTH, SAMUEL STEWART, was born at Pownal, Vt., October 13, 1790, and came to this county in the year 1819. His father, Capt. Wanton Ellsworth, was a Rhode Island man, and his mother, Sabra Stewart, was a Connecticut woman. He was first associated with the brothers Stewart (Samuel and George) as clerk, but very soon purchased their stock in trade and became their successor in Penn Yan, they removing to Bethel, Ontario County.

It was in January, 1820, that "Samuel S. Ellsworth" became known and identified as a business man in the village of Penn Yan, and from that time until his death no man was more generally known or more widely recognized as a leading spirit in all that related to the advancement of the general interests and prosperity of the village or the county than he; and in thus presenting him it may be inferred that there was something in the man that rendered him at once conspicuous, familiarly associated with and universally known to a very wide circle of acquaintances and equally as wide circle of friends.

Briefly he may be said to have possessed the native elements of a gentleman and by self-culture to have qualified himself to fill that sphere in the true sense of the term; eschewing all semblance of both pedantry and aristocracy he was equally accessible to the peasant and the scholar, and especially was he open to the approach of those who needed the uplifting hand of a friend in time of need. He was an early student and always an ardent lover of books, devoting as much of his time to them as his engrossed and busy life would permit. As a business man he was active and ready, judging men accurately and adapting himself to their demands, and always so deported himself as to establish confidence and command respect. No one who became acquainted with him feared to trust and never was that confidence disappointed. His kindness and geniality were proverbial, and although often led into imprudences in aid of others by trusting too hopefully, yet in his own business affairs, that were under his personal care and direction, it seldom occurred that he was not fully sustained in the judgment he had formed.

In this department of life's duties he often exhibited a courage and leadership calculated to deter the selfish timid, while it enlisted others more cosmopolitan in spirit, from the confidence his integrity, suc-



cesses and energy inspired, and his name was always found associated with every noteworthy enterprise started for public benefit or private gain in those early days when it required united effort to overcome the obstacles of the time; hence he was found connected with such men as the late John Magee, Joseph Fellows and Constant Cook of Bath, W. W. McCay, A. M. Adsit of Hammondsport, and others of marked character for enterprise in all the early stage routes leading from and through Penn Yan, the building and running the first steamboat on the Crooked Lake, known as the "Keuka," and was also largely interested in and connected with the produce trade and transportation on the canal. Associated with Spencer Booth under the firm of Ellsworth & Booth, they were the originators of Branchport, where they conducted a large mercantile and produce business connected with lumbering and farming, for many years.

With people Judge Ellsworth was eminently popular, and was often called to fill places of public duty and trust. In 1824 and but a few years after his advent to the town he was elected supervisor of Milo, and selected for three years thereafter. After the organization of this county in 1824 (March 31, 1828) he was appointed first judge, a station which he filled for five years. In 1829 he was demanded by his party friends to stand as their candidate for the Assembly, and was elected by a close vote, it is true, but this raised his party from an almost hopeless minority to a working majority and for future successes.

In this council of the State his character for business tact and energy, with that of political integrity, had preceded him, and he was placed in positions of great responsibility and labor, and was at once made chairman of the celebrated committee of nine, known in the history of the times as the "Grinding Committee," which he discharged with marked ability and fairness, winning credit and confidence from both political parties, where his less confident supporters had predicted failure.

In 1844 he was elected to represent the district then composed of Tompkins, Chemung and Yates in Congress by a telling majority. It was in this session of 1845-46 that the great heat of the Texas Admission question was at its height, and which engrossed the best minds of the statesmen of those days, as to the propriety of extending the area of slavery by the acquisition of free territory. It was at a meeting for

consultation of friends of annexation without slavery that the fruitful mind of Judge Ellsworth modestly suggested that attaching of the Jeffersonian ordinance of 1784 to the resolution of acceptance of annexation as a measure that would render it acceptable to the North, by thus forever prohibiting slavery therein. The paternity of this measure has been claimed by others, but the Hon. Horace Mann was the authority for this version. The idea was at once entertained as both forcible and practical, and the more ambitious David Wilmot, of Pennsylvania, introduced the amendment which has since borne the name of the "Wilmot Proviso." It was with general satisfaction that Judge Ellsworth discharged his duties as Member of Congress, and he made himself there so widely known and respected that it gave to his opinions and influence great weight in the other years of his life in the councils of both the nation and the State.

His political affinities were always with the Democracy, yet his independence impelled him to uphold the right even where strict party allegiance might otherwise lead.

"Stewart Ellsworth," although popular and, as has been shown, politically successful, was not in the more common acceptation of the term a politician; not that he was insensible to the flattery of the confidence of the people, or the true honor of position; but such was the construction of his mind that he shrank instinctively from the bold competition of the heartless place hunter and scorned to wear honors that he felt were only the result of party fealty and discipline. In brief, his true sphere was that of the business man, the social circle and pre eminently so within the domestic circle and family group; always eschewing the hotel as a home, he established and maintained his household long before he married, and the graceful hospitalities of which were known and appreciated throughout a wide range of acquaintance.

In 1834 he married Mrs. Elizabeth C. Vosburgh, of Penn Yan, who died January 16, 1873, and was long a prominent and valued member of the Presbyterian Church of that village. Her maiden name was Elizabeth C. Henry, a daughter of Dr. Robert R. Henry, a surgeon in the army of the Revolution, and a citizen of New Jersey. Her mother was Mary Hilliard, who died at Penn Yan, November 19, 1843, aged eighty-four years. All who knew Mrs. Ellsworth cheerfully testify

to her peculiar fitness to be the wife of such a man as was her husband. She was a good woman and widely beloved.

Judge Ellsworth died at his residence in Penn Yan June 4, 1863, aged seventy-three years, full of years and works, missed and mourned by all who knew him.

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ELLSWORTH, SAMUEL STEWART, JR., was born in the village of Penn Yan, December 25, 1839, and was the son of Judge Samuel Ellsworth and Elizabeth Vosburgh *née* Henry. Stewart Ellsworth, as he is sometimes called, prepared for college in the public and select schools of Penn Yan. He entered Hamilton College in January, 1857, and was graduated with the class of '60, receiving the degree in course of Master of Arts in 1863. He read law and was prepared for examination, but never entered the legal profession, as his attention about that time was directed to the care of his father's estate and business, the latter having died in 1863. In this and other recent trusts Mr. Ellsworth established and confirmed a fine record. At this time, too, the war was in progress, and our subject became actively engaged in politics. He was a Douglass or War Democrat, and gave an earnest support to the Union cause. He has on more than one occasion shown himself to be a ready, eloquent speaker and graceful critic. In 1865, '68, '70, and '74 he was a delegate to the Democratic State Convention. Also, in 1872 he was a delegate to the National Convention of the same party at Baltimore that placed Horace Greeley in nomination for the presidency.

But while General Ellsworth has been an active participant in local, State and national politics for about twenty-five years, he has seldom been the candidate of his party for political preferment. In 1870 he was the Democratic candidate for the Assembly, and made a remarkable run, his party being in a hopeless minority. His office holdings have been limited to two terms as supervisor of the town of Milo, during the years 1882 and 1883. For three years also, 1875, '76 and '77, he served as member of the Board of Education of Penn Yan, but this office has been considered rather non-political than otherwise. But his familiarity with local and general politics has brought General Ellsworth into acquaintance and association with public men and measures, and has



Engraved by H. B. FINE, N. Y.

*S. S. Ellsworth*





placed him high in the councils of his party, and in many desirable positions in connection with public corporations and institutions. In 1869 he was elected president of the Sodus Point and Southern Railroad Company. In 1872 he was likewise chosen president of the Wilksbarre and Seneca Lake Coal Company. In 1875 and '76 he served as Quartermaster-General of the State on General Tilden's staff, from which position he acquired the title of General, by which he is commonly known. In 1870 he was elected trustee of Hamilton College, a position he still holds. From 1868 to 1880 he was one of the board of managers of the Fall Brook Coal Company. In 1891 he was elected president of the Lake Keuka Ice Company. In 1890 he was made a member of the American Institute of Christian Philosophy. He was the first patron of the famous "Ellsworth Hose Company," named after him, formed October 26, 1871, and composed of the best young men in the village and which won the State competitive prize at Cortland, August 24, 1888. He is now one of the active trustees of the John Magee estate (Fall Brook Coal Company). He was engaged in 1867, and for four years in a large grain, malting and forwarding business with F. Davis, jr., at Watkins. The local firm of S. S. Ellsworth & Company, coal dealers, was formed in 1890, but the General's connection with that business dates back to 1884.

Among his fellow-men and associates, in his social, political and business relations, Stewart Ellsworth is a popular central figure. In all matters pertaining to the welfare of his native village and locality he is public spirited and generous; and it may truthfully be said that no worthy enterprise or charity ever appealed to him in vain. He is a member and strong supporter of the Presbyterian Church, its conservatism and polity. But it is in the social relation, in the unrestricted flow of familiar conversation, that the most pleasing traits of his character are exhibited. His devotion to friends, his general presence, his well-trained mind, his generous literary taste, finely cultivated, together with his remarkable memory, combine to make him one of the most interesting of companions.

On the 12th day of December, 1866, Samuel Stewart Ellsworth was married to Hebe Parker, only daughter of the late Hon. John Magee, of Watkins, N. Y. Of this marriage two children were born: Duncan

Steuart Ellsworth, and John Magee Ellsworth, both students in Yale University. The former was born February 19, 1870, and the latter May 17, 1874. Hebe Parker Ellsworth died in Paris, France, April 16, 1880. From the local press at the time of her untimely departure we copy the following :

"Mrs. Ellsworth was a most estimable woman, and her death is a sad loss to her family and her large circle of friends. In Penn Yan, where she resided for a number of years, it can very truly be said, 'None knew her but to love her, none named her but to praise.' She was liberal to a fault, bestowing out of her abundance to every worthy and charitable cause ; she was looked upon by the poor as a 'friend, indeed.' We tender our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family, and especially to her husband, to whom her death is a great blow. There is a day when 'parting is no more,' and to this should he turn for comfort and consolation. Mrs. Ellsworth was one of the loveliest of women, in person and character, winning to herself without effort the esteem and friendship of all with whom she came in contact."

Mr. Ellsworth's twin brother, Henry, died April 9, 1840, and a sister, Mary Elizabeth, of sainted memory, died August 8, 1848, at the age of eleven years.

"In the midst of life cometh death," and when on May 6, 1892, it became known that Stewart Ellsworth had passed away at 2 o'clock on the morning of that day, a universal thought went forth that Penn Yan had sustained a loss that could not be replaced, that each and every one of her citizens would ever afterwards miss the smiling countenance, the genial presence of whom they all loved and respected.

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SPICER, JAMES, one of the prominent and best known lawyers of the Yates County Bar, was born in the town of Barrington, Yates County, October 23, 1827. His father, the late John Spicer, was an extensive farmer, lumber dealer, and builder of mills. He was an active politician and had a strong hold on the local Democratic party.

In his early life the son worked with the laborers on his father's farm. His early educational advantages were confined to the winter term of the "District" school. (Mr. Spicer is eminently a self-made man. Whatever he is he has made himself.) After following several kinds of

business he finally settled down to the study of medicine in the office of his father-in-law, the late Dr. Richard Huson. By the advice of the late Dellazon J. Sunderlin, he abandoned the study of medicine and directed his attention to the legal profession, which was much more to his taste. He read law in the office of Mr. Sunderlin, and was admitted to the bar in 1862, since which time he has steadily applied himself to the duties of his profession for which he has a natural adaptation. He has made a fine record as advocate, and is a skillful cross-examiner. Sometimes in his examinations he is very severe and he makes it very uncomfortable for the witness.

He is particularly careful and painstaking in the preparation of his cases for trial. His briefs are always full and complete. This is one of the secrets of his success.

Mr. Spicer, speaking of the commencement of his legal practice, tells the story of the trial of his first suit. He says two parties that were in law each wanted the services of Mr. Sunderlin. They were both personal friends and he declined serving either, and advised the parties to employ the boys (students); M. J. Sunderlin was a student in his father's office. The proposition was accepted and "the boys" had a severe legal tussle. Spicer gained the suit and received two dollars for his fee. This was the beginning of a long and successful legal practice.

After concluding his studies and his admission to the bar, Mr. Spicer opened an office in Dundee. The business was successful and from the commencement of his practice he has taken a high position in his profession.

In the year 1880 the Dundee National Bank was organized and Mr. Spicer was elected president, and has held the office until the present time.

In addition to his other business he has the management of a large farm. His early home training gave him a love for agricultural pursuits and he takes great pride and pleasure in raising fine sheep and other stock.

He has a fine residence in Dundee, which he occupied for some years; but preferring a rural life he moved on his farm where he can give direction and oversight to his farming operations. His farm is situate one-half mile north of the village line and was known as the Longwill



farm. Since it came in his possession he has greatly improved and beautified it and it is now considered the model farm of the county.

In his farming business his wife is a very efficient helpmate. Mr. Spicer was twice married. His first wife was Katharine, daughter of Dr. Richard and Rebecca Huson, in 1845, who died many years ago. They had born to them two daughters, Mary and Rebecca, only one (Mary), now living. His second marriage was to Martha Sharp, in 1861, who is still living. Mr. Spicer has had for partners Judge Hurd, Hiland G. Wolcott, Charles Baker, Hon. H. Struble. His residence, with the exception of one year in Penn Yan, has been in Dundee since 1845.

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HARTSHORN, ISAAC WRIGHT, is a son of Samuel Hartshorn, and Samuel was born at Amherst, Mass., in June, 1872, and he was a blacksmith. He married Sarah Genung, in 1798; Sarah was born April, 1781, in Newark, N. J. In 1817 they came to Barrington, Yates County, N. Y., and five years later they moved to Jerusalem, settling on lot 68. Samuel died May 6, 1854, and his wife, July 13, 1862. Their children were Hiley, who was born November 23, 1799, married Hosea Williams, of Exeter, N. Y. She died November 26, 1879, and he died November 19, 1851, in Jerusalem. Bersey, born March 12, 1802, married Robert Brown, and moved to Dresden, where he died, October, 1850, and she died December 18, 1873. Abigail, born May 1, 1804, married Azor Barrett; he died December 14, 1871, and she died December 18, 1873. William W., born September 6, 1806, married Mary Thomas, and moved to Michigan; he died May 3, 1868; his widow still resides there. Sybil, born July 29, 1811, died May 25, 1875. James H., born January 17, 1814, married Emily Williams; he died July 18, 1856; she died July 8, 1854. Malissa, the youngest, died in infancy.

Isaac Wright, the subject of this sketch, was born in Exeter, Otsego County, N. Y., March 1, 1809. He was educated at the common schools of that time, and when he was seventeen years of age he began teaching and kept at it during the winter for a number of years, working on the farm in the summer; and he also became a civil engineer, but he always lived upon the farm, and by close application to business, good judgment, strict economy, and ceaseless industry, he was known



*Engraving by J. H. Smith*

*P. W. Hartsborn*



as one of the most successful farmers of Yates County. In politics he was known as a reformer, always voting for the party that he thought was for reformation; he was a strong Prohibitionist, and also a great friend and supporter of the cause of anti-slavery, and made a trip through the South with the late William Lloyd Garrison, when the friends of this cause were persecuted by the press and in the pulpit; but Mr. Hartshorn lived to see this grand cause succeed. He was not a member of any religious denomination, but he always recognized that there was a Supreme Being, and tried to live so that his actions would warrant and deserve the respect and esteem of his fellow-man.

Mr. Hartshorn married, first, Sarah, daughter of Ashbel Beers, in 1849, and she died in April, 1853, without issue. He married, second, Sarah, daughter of Amzi Bruen, December 31, 1857, and by this union there was one child, Wendell Phillips Hartshorn, born October 19, 1866. Mr. Hartshorn died March 18, 1888, much respected by all who knew him. His widow still resides upon the old homestead, and their son, Wendell Phillips, resides in Penn Yan. He spent one year at Oberlin College, and then graduated at the Albany Business College, at Albany, N. Y., and is now reading law with J. H. Butler, and has also opened a real estate and broker's office in the Post-office block, and it is through his liberality that we are enabled to insert in this work a fine likeness of Isaac Wright Hartshorn.

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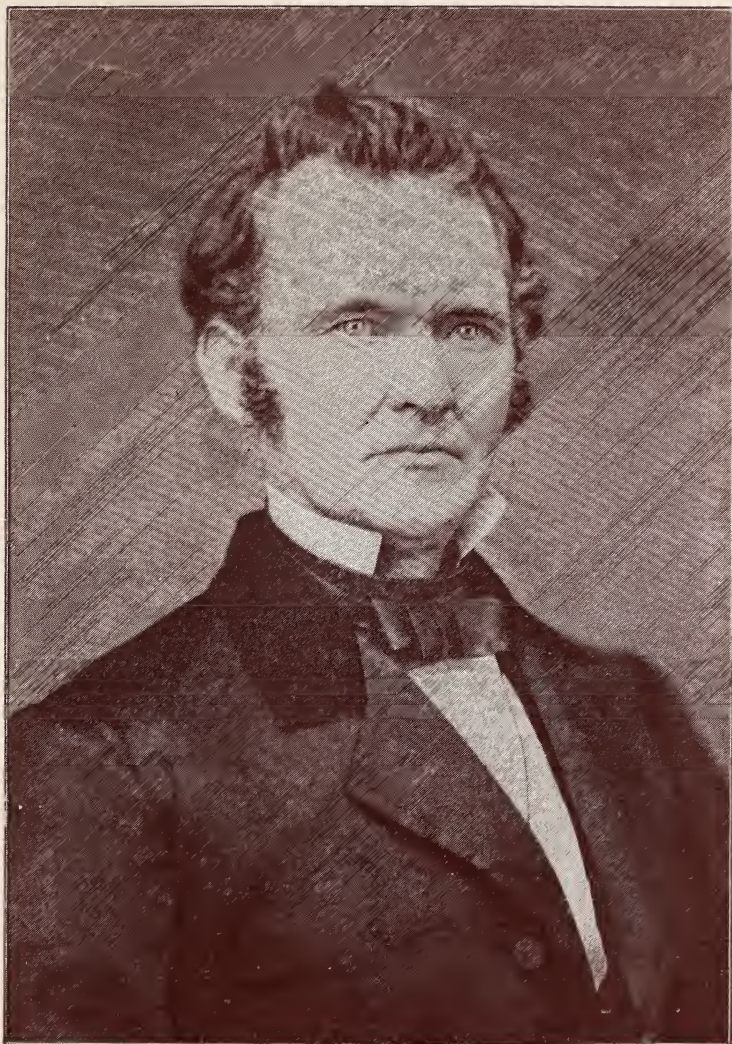
VAN ALLEN, JAMES VANDERPOEL, was born at Stuyvesant, N. Y., February 11, 1819, and was the son of Lucas I. and Elizabeth (Vanderpoel) Van Allen. He was named for his uncle, James Vanderpoel, an eminent lawyer of Albany. After completing his early education he commenced the study of medicine with his uncle, Dr. John Vanderpoel, but on going to Philadelphia to attend medical lectures conceived a dislike for a farther prosecution of that study, and left for the West where his elder brother had settled. Owing to the death of this brother he returned to his native town, where he studied law, and in 1844 came to Penn Yan, where he completed his studies in the office of Benedict M. Franklin, esq. After remaining in Mr. Franklin's office two years, he established himself in business at Newark, N. Y. His stay was short in Newark; after a residence of six months he received



an offer of partnership from Mr. Franklin and returned to Penn Yan. Mr. Van Alen was for the next ten years partner with Mr. Franklin, and after the dissolution of the firm, practiced law until his death. In 1853 he married Sarah, daughter of Eben Smith, and in 1862-63, erected a residence, corner of Clinton and Sheppard streets. Mr. Van Alen's taste and industry were largely manifested in the beautiful appearance of his elegant and well organized home. Domestic enjoyment blessed his abode with all that is best in life, except children, of which there was none. Kind, thoughtful, and peerless in generosity, Mr. Van Alen was a model husband. His professional work was chiefly office work. He never cultivated his powers as an advocate and seemed to shrink from anything of that character as a legal counselor. He was eminently safe and trustworthy, and documents prepared under his hand were found worthy of all confidence and noted for legal accuracy. He put his conscience into his work as a lawyer, and hence came to be trusted implicitly by a large clientage, who had learned by experience the high value of his advice and services. A more industrious man was seldom seen; whatever he had to do he did with all his might, and thereby accomplished a large amount of work. His professional accomplishments were strictly practical and gave him thorough understanding of legal affairs as connected with the ordinary business of life in the present day. He was the chief legal advisor of nearly all the sheriffs of Yates County for a period of thirty years, and no one was better qualified for such service. He naturally shunned large professional responsibilities and did not estimate his own legal abilities at their true value. But for his extreme modesty and timidity of mind he might have filled a much larger sphere in his profession, for he had an excellent legal mind, as well as the energy and ability to achieve real eminence in his chosen walk of life. Mr. Van Alen died at his residence in Penn Yan, April 26, 1877, while yet in the prime of his powers, and his loss was therefore very keenly felt. His widow survives him, being a resident of Penn Yan.

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LAPHAM, LUDLOW E.—The original emigrant ancestor of this gentleman was John Lapham, a weaver by trade, who came from Devonshire, England, and settled at Providence, R. I. He married Mary, a daughter of William Mann, and had a family of five sons and



ARTOTYPE PROCESS.

*L. E. Lapham*



one daughter. John, the eldest son of this family, married Mary, daughter of Joseph Russell, and they had fourteen children, of whom John, the second child and oldest son was born October 3, 1703, and married Desire, daughter of Benjamin Howland. He settled about 1772 at Nine Partners, Dutchess County, N. Y., and had three children. Benjamin, his eldest son, was born January 15, 1727, and had four children, Pazzi being the youngest son, and was born October 22, 1750, and married Bethany Foster. Of their ten children the eldest was Eliakim, born at Nine Partners, Dutchess County, N. Y., September 1, 1778, and married, January 5, 1800, Rachel Harris. The latter was a native of Northeast, Dutchess County, N. Y. Eliakim died in Columbia County, N. Y., December 17, 1828. His widow came to Penn Yan in 1840, residing with her daughter, Mrs. Metzger Tuell, and died in 1863, at the advanced age of eighty-five. The children of Eliakim and Rachel (Harris) Lapham, were John H., born October 8, 1804. He came to Penn Yan and engaged in the drug trade, and died in 1874; and Ludlow E., born at Kinderhook, Columbia County, July 22, 1806. His education was limited to the local school, and during his boyhood he learned the trade of scythe-making of one Harris, he being at that time the most noted manufacturer of scythes in the United States. Mr. Ludlow E. Lapham came to Penn Yan in 1825, being then nineteen years of age, and was engaged as a clerk in the store of his uncle, Capt. James Harris, the firm being Harris & Stevens. This was one of the first stores opened in Penn Yan. Mr. Lapham retained his connection with this firm till 1833, in which year he succeeded to the business, the firm being Lapham & Brown. He continued in the mercantile business till within a few years of his death, with partners and individually, excepting a period of ten years, when he was engaged in farming in the town of Benton. He was an excellent farmer, and was one of the most industrious organizers of the Yates County Agricultural Society, and in competition in ploughing was frequently a successful winner of the society awards.

Mr. Lapham married, April 18, 1830, Reliance W., daughter of Henry Townsend. She was born in 1812, and died in 1855, leaving five children, viz.: Sabra A., the eldest, who was a young lady of fine mental gifts, ambitious and earnest in self-improvement. She was one of the early



graduates of the State Normal School at Albany, and was a frequent contributor to the press of poems of acknowledged beauty and worth, amongst which we mention "Spirit Voices," and "The Carrier Dove." She married, in 1853, Rev. Asa Countryman, Universalist minister, and died in 1857, at Orange, Mass., leaving two daughters, Ella and Georgia, both graduates of the Iowa State University. George H., the second child (see biographical sketch in another part of this work). Olive T., the third child, is the wife of Theodore F. Wheeler, the well-known druggist of Penn Yan. Mary J., the fourth child, is the wife of Clarence M. Page, of Rochester, N. Y. Agnes R., the youngest of this family, resides in Penn Yan, and is the wife of John T. Knox, Esq., present district attorney. Mr. Lapham remarried, August 20, 1856, Mrs. Susan Wilkin *née* Booth, of Hamptonburg, Orange County, N. Y. The issue of this marriage was one son, Ludlow E., professor of languages at Cornell University.

Ludlow E. Lapham was methodical and accurate in his dealings, social and genial in his manners, and had a large circle of very warm friends. He always took a deep interest in public affairs, endeavoring to inform himself well and keep himself versed in the general intelligence of the day. He was for many years an active member of the Methodist Church, to which he was strongly attached, often acting in the official capacity of trustee. On July 8, 1882, in his seventy-sixth year, quietly and peacefully his soul took wings to perpetual peace, rest and bliss, at his own home surrounded by all the members of his large family.

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LAPHAM, GEORGE H., the only son of Ludlow E. and Reliance W. (Townsend) Lapham, was born in Benton, Yates County, N. Y., May 18, 1834. His father returned to Penn Yan when he was about eight years of age, and he finished his education at the Penn Yan Academy, which at that time was in charge of the well-known and popular teacher, Joseph Bloomingdale. After leaving school at the age of fourteen years, Mr. Lapham became a clerk in his uncle John H. Lapham's drug store in the village of Penn Yan. He remained with his uncle two years, when he went to Geneva, N. Y., and was employed in the wholesale and retail drug establishment of A. D. Platt until 1853. In the latter year, returning to Penn Yan, he engaged in

the mercantile business with his father under the firm name of L. E. Lapham & Son. This firm continued business for three years, when Mr. Lapham established business on a more extended scale under his own name, in which he was engaged successfully until 1873.

In 1873, having obtained a charter for a national bank by a special act of Congress, the State quota being full at that time, he organized the First National Bank of Penn Yan. This was the first national bank to be organized in Yates County. Mr. Lapham became chief owner of the stock of the bank, has been its principal financial officer and has successfully conducted its affairs ever since. For many years he has held the office of president. Politically Mr. Lapham has always been a Democrat of the Jeffersonian school, and became active in politics when quite a young man, and was for years an honored leader of his party, and as chairman of its county committee was often enabled to lead them to victory, although his party was largely in the minority in the county. His superior ability for organization and management as a party leader was acknowledged by all. Mr. Lapham has frequently represented Yates County in the State conventions. His advice on political matters was much sought for by the prominent leaders of his party. He was unanimously chosen to represent the twenty seventh congressional district as a delegate to the St. Louis National Convention held in 1876, and was active in accomplishing the nomination of the Hon. Samuel J. Tilden. In 1880 his name was placed on the Democratic ticket for presidential elector, he receiving the largest vote cast for any of the nominees on that ticket. Previous to holding of the Democratic State Convention in 1881, while Mr. Lapham was absent from the State, his name was prominently mentioned by the press as a candidate for State Treasurer. This being without his knowledge and consent, it was not till after considerable hesitancy and upon the earnest solicitation of his friends, he finally consented to become a candidate for that office. At the State Convention subsequently held at Albany, it was decided to present Mr. Lapham's name for Comptroller. His name was presented to the convention by his worthy townsman, Hon. Darius Ogden, who in his presentation address says: "I name a man who will bring to the discharge of the duties of the office of comptroller vigor and youth; who will bring it also the maturity of manhood, a man

whose education has been of the character that fits him to take hold of this office and to master and discharge its duties. We need a man for the office of comptroller whose character is above reproach, honest, capable, faithful to the State; faithful to the constitution; faithful to the country in an eminent degree. We have such a candidate in our nominee." The nomination was ably seconded by Hon. Peter B. Olney, of New York, and Gen. Falkner, of Livingston, and Mr. Lapham was unanimously nominated, an honor rarely if ever conferred by a State Convention for that office. On account of severe sickness in his family, Mr. Lapham could not make a personal canvass prior to the election, but in locations where he was well known he ran far ahead of the balance of the ticket. At the State Convention held in Buffalo in 1884, his name was prominently mentioned by the Tilden wing of the party for comptroller, but after the nomination of Isaac H. Maynard as Secretary of State, Mr. Lapham declined to allow his name to go upon the ticket. Since this time he has withdrawn entirely from politics; although he has been often solicited by the leaders of his party, he has declined taking any active part in political matters. Mr. Lapham was one of the seven commissioners appointed by the State Legislature to locate the site of the cantilever bridge at Niagara Falls, which was the first of the kind erected in the United States.

Mr. Lapham married, in 1861, Margaret P., daughter of Hon. Ezekiel Casner, and their family consists of four children: Charles C., who is treasurer of Hammondsport Vintage Co., resides in Penn Yan; Margaret R., wife of Walter Sheppard, proprietor and editor of the *Penn Yan Democrat*; George H., jr., a student at Cornell University, and Bessie C. Mrs. Lapham died March 14, 1887, and he remarried June, 13, 1889, Miss Kathleen H. M. Boddy, daughter of the Archdeacon of York, M. A. Cambridge, of Toronto, Canada.

Mr. Lapham, as a late very intimate friend of him says, "is a man of quick perceptions and rare common sense, with accurate and methodical business habits and superior business ability. He is in the prime of life and is of attractive personal appearance. He enjoys to a large degree the culture of experience and observation and has proved himself to be a practical and successful business man."

CASNER, HON. EZEKIEL, the son of John and Lydia (Rhodes) Casner, was born in Norristown, Pa., April 23, 1802. His father dying when Mr. Casner was quite young, he was only able to obtain the advantages of a common school education. He was apprenticed to learn the trade of miller, and when hardly in his majority he engaged in the milling business in Allentown, Pa., which place he left in 1824 and came to Penn Yan, which thereafter he made his future home. He first obtained employment of Abraham Wagener who ran a flouring-mill where the present one is located in Penn Yan. In company with Hon. Aaron Remer, he purchased the mill and the firm continued until 1843 when it was dissolved by the death of Mr. Remer. During the same year Mr. Casner formed a partnership with John C. Scheetz, under the firm name of Casner & Scheetz. This firm continued business until the death of the senior partner; and during a partnership of most forty years the most pleasant relations existed, which speaks well for their enterprise and mutual confidence. In politics Mr. Casner was originally a Whig; he was elected a member of the Assembly in 1844; he was appointed by President Fillmore to fill the unexpired term of Mr. James Robinson as postmaster of Penn Yan, and during the seven months he filled that position he gave the income of the office to his assistants. Upon the disruption of the Whig party he became a Democrat, with which party he thereafter affiliated, taking an active part, and persistently refusing any political honors, though often solicited to do so.

Mr. Casner was a man of sincere convictions, and free and frank in the utterance of his views. He was in no mean sense a wit and as such was a character in his originality. When in his neighborly way he did talk it was to the point and the hits were worth considering and remembering. He was industrious, economical and exemplary in his daily unostentatious life. Commencing business in Penn Yan with no advantages and among strangers, he early attracted the men of prominence in the community by his self-reliance, merit and worth, and always enjoyed their confidence. He married before coming to Penn Yan, Miss Elizabeth Kachline. They had a family of nine children, and though six of them arrived at the age of maturity, none are now living. The six mentioned above were Joanna, who married Henry L. Kendig; Frank, Lydia, Margaret Prior, who married Hon. George H. Lapham; Samuel,



and Albanus C. Mrs. Casner died May 26, 1846, and on June 17, 1852, Mr. Casner married Elizabeth J., daughter of Dr. E. E. W. Gale, of Albany, N. Y., who survives him and resides on the Casner homestead in Penn Yan. The issue of this marriage was Elizabeth A. who married Dr. Byron B. Harcas, at Penn Yan, and died at Rushville, N. Y. Mr. Casner died October 22, 1882, and the universal testimony and appreciation of the poor to his goodness of heart and sympathizing disposition are sufficient evidences of the love he bore his neighbors, however lowly. His benevolence was a marked trait of his character. He was successful in accumulating a comfortable competency, which, after providing liberally for his widow, was equally distributed amongst his surviving heirs. Besides being engaged in the milling business, Mr. Casner was connected with other mercantile enterprises. He was from its organization in 1873 until his death a director of the First National Bank of Penn Yan, and on financial and other matters his approval was often sought by the general public. He was very outspoken, direct and practical, and rarely erred in judgment of men and things.

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SMITH, FRANKLIN ELLSWORTH, an early merchant of Penn Yan, was born in that village, April 6, 1824. His father, Eben Smith, was a prominent merchant and influential citizen of Penn Yan for nearly a half of a century. His mother, Miss Eliza Ellsworth, was a sister of Judge S. S. Ellsworth. At the age of fourteen our subject entered his father's hardware store as clerk. He continued in this business till 1852, alone and in partnership with his father. With others, Mr. Smith was largely interested in the building of the Elmira, Canandaigua and Niagara Falls Railroad, which enterprise proved not to be a financial success. Soon after disposing of his hardware business he engaged in the clothing trade, in which he remained until July 8, 1884. Mr. Smith was known as an upright and useful citizen, an active supporter of public improvement, conspicuous for his fair dealing, and had a deep interest in all that concerned the welfare of his native town and county. He was one of the most active and influential friends of the Penn Yan and New York Railroad. He was twice elected supervisor of the town of Milo, and was jealously watchful of the interests of the town, and faithful to his trust, as he was in every department of life ;



Engraved by F. J. Smith, N.Y.

*F. J. Smith*



for in those respects he was as conscientious and just as he was frank and open-hearted. As a husband and father he was mindful of the responsibilities which those relations imposed, and as a member of a Christian church—the Presbyterian—he was alike responsive to his obligations, rarely missing its meetings for public worship, and striving ever to walk by the rules of his high calling in sincerity and truth. He was for many years connected with the Masonic fraternity, and filled very acceptably many high positions in that order. He married in 1869 Emily, daughter of Rev. Dr. Heman Dyer, of New York. Their only child is Emily Stewart Smith.

Mr. Smith, after a long and protracted sickness, died January 11, 1886, and in his death Penn Yan lost one of her most influential and enterprising merchants.

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SHEPPARD, HON. MORRIS F., was born at Germantown, near Philadelphia, November 28, 1774, being the son of Moses Shepard and Hannah Fletcher. They were members of the society of Friends or Quakers. The ancestors of Moses Sheppard had settled sometime about 1675, at Salem, N. J., and afterwards some of the family had made homes for themselves in the prosperous colony which had, in the meanwhile, been established under the auspices of William Penn.

In the year 1800, Mr. Sheppard, in company with two or three others, made an exploring expedition on horseback to the Genesee country, and finally found their way to the spot where now is the village of Penn Yan. So pleased was he with the country, that he at once made preparations for emigrating and settling there. In 1801, with a horse and cart, he again made the journey, bringing with him what personal property he possessed, and the implements of his trade. Arriving at his destination, he purchased of Abraham Wagener, ten acres of land on the east side of Main street, bounded on the north by Head street, and embracing Jacob's Brook. Here he established a tannery, one of the first, if not the first, in the county, certainly the first within the limits of Penn Yan. The same year he married Rachel Supplee, daughter of the widow of Peter Supplee. Mrs. Supplee had come to this country about 1797, in company with her brother, David Wagener. Mr. Sheppard and Rachel Supplee were married October 22, 1801, and erecting



a small log house with two ground rooms, they kept house in one end while the other was used as a finishing shop for the tannery.

Mr. Sheppard was an active and useful citizen of the young village until his death, which occurred November 18, 1846. The following newspaper notices, written by men who knew him well, will give a good idea of his career and character.

From *Daily Telegraph*, Thursday, November 19, 1846.

"Died in this village, last evening, after an illness of a week's duration, Hon. Morris F. Sheppard, aged seventy-two years.

"The deceased was one of the founders of Penn Yan, as well as one of the earliest settlers of this now fertile region of country. He spread his tent in the then wilderness, and not far from the spot where his remains now lie, over fifty years ago. He has lived and participated in the active bustle of business enterprise and improvement, and seen and assisted in making the waste places become beautiful gardens, and the 'Hazel Copse' become one of the most thrifty and prosperous villages of Western New York. He enjoyed through life the esteem and confidence of his fellow citizens in an eminent degree, and was frequently called upon by them to fill important stations of public trusts. His labors in the legislature for several successive sessions were appreciated beyond the bounds of the county that honored him by its suffrage. In all the relations of life, public and private, he discharged the obligations imposed upon him with credit to himself and his constituency. He was a kind husband, an affectionate father, and an honest man. Those who knew him best and longest loved him most. And now that he has been gathered by the great destroyer of us all, ripe and full of years, there are many outside of the circle of his family and kindred who will sincerely mourn his departure, and long cherish a remembrance of the many excellent traits of the character of Morris F. Sheppard. From the earliest dawn of the temperance reformation to the day of his departure, that glorious cause had no truer advocate."

From *Yates County Chronicle* of March 5, 1874.

"It may neither be inappropriate nor unprofitable to offer a few remarks respecting the father and family of the late deceased George A. Sheppard. They may awaken interesting reminiscences. Half a century ago, Morris F. Sheppard, esq., then in the prime of life, was one of

the prominent and enterprising citizens of Penn Yan. His children by his wife Rachel were George A., Sarah F., John S., Charles C., and Susan. The father and sons have been prosperous, yea more than prosperous, in their business affairs, by reason of their economical, industrious, correct and temperate habits. Of said children, Charles C. Sheppard now alone survives.

“Morris F. Sheppard came to this place at an early day from Pennsylvania, and commenced business as a tanner and currier. In addition to taking care of his own affairs, he was soon and frequently called upon by his fellow citizens to attend to theirs. Sometimes a couple of neighbors would come to him to settle their little difficulty, but oftener to call on him to become their servant in official capacities, reaching from magistrate to member of Assembly. He represented Yates County in the State legislature during the sessions of 1828–29–30, with honor to himself, and credit to his constituents, taking rank among the foremost men there. And although a man of outspoken political sentiments, he could always poll a vote in excess of his party ticket. He, with others, exerted all his powers to promote the prosperity and ascendancy of the upper or north portion of the village, until it was forced to succumb to the water power, the canal, the bank, and the business of the town or south portion of Penn Yan. There are yet a few left who can look back and recall the portly form and genial face of Morris F. Sheppard, and the many pleasant hours they have passed with him in his office listening to his President Lincoln-like sayings, and to words of interest and value to themselves on very many subjects. His advice in business matters, when called for, was always cheerfully and frankly given, and it evidenced wisdom in the hearer to profit by it.”

In addition to the matters already spoken of, it is of interest to note that during the War of 1812 Mr. Sheppard was associated with the organization of an independent military company, called “Silver Grays,” under the captaincy of Truman Spencer, and was called out at the attack on Sodus Point. In 1818 he built a grist-mill on Sucker Brook, located in what is now known as Cornwell’s Gully. This, through a failing water supply, was soon rendered an unprofitable speculation. In 1830 he built the stone house on Main street, now owned by Mr. Jephtha Potter, and this we are told was at that time regarded, “as approaching the extensive, if not the extravagant.”

A record of Mr. Sheppard's life would be incomplete without a mention of his religious belief. For his time he was an advanced thinker, in that he believed that the *good life* is of the first importance. In a day of intolerant creeds he asserted that to live uprightly and to deal justly are the essential parts of true religion, and that a man's life is his real "Confession of faith" by which he must stand or fall.

**S**HEPPARD, CHARLES CLEMENT.—In an early chapter of this work will be found an extended account of the family of which Mr. Sheppard was a member. He was born in Penn Yan, June 9, 1808, and was the son of Hon. Morris F. Sheppard, a pioneer of prominence of Yates County. His early life was passed in his native village, attending the local schools, and arriving at the age of maturity he became identified with the mercantile business of Penn Yan. Of his business career as a merchant for many years, and his subsequent successful operations in the purchase, development and sale of valuable well-placed lands in the Western States, the large fortune he accumulated is an evidence of his prudence, industry and foresight. Mr. Sheppard was never a seeker for office and place, but was always an influential partisan. In early life a Whig, then active and heroic in the advocacy and substantial advancement of Republican success and supremacy, and a loyal friend of the Union when its integrity was in peril. In 1860 he was a delegate to the National Republican Convention which nominated Abraham Lincoln for the presidency. In 1857, by a legislative act, he was made a member of the original board of education of Penn Yan, continuing by election as such until 1874, and for nine years was president of the same.

Mr. Sheppard was an exemplary man in his daily life, a model of excellent personal, business and covenant relations and performances. He was a good citizen, with his face and force ever in the higher and better direction; frank in the expression of his opinions, invariably sound, and fearless in the discharge of duty. He united, at an early age, with the Church of Christ and his place in all of its worship was never vacant, his voice for his heavenly Master was never silent, and his ample purse was ever open. To the beautiful new Presbyterian Church edifice of this village he was a very large contributor. Cheerfully, yet modestly,

in the congregation of the people, he volunteered his timely aid, and on recording his large donation on a subsequent day, he closed his eyes, suffused with tears, while he silently prayed for God's direction and blessing on the proposed religious home. For years he gave largely to church, missionary, educational, and benevolent causes, and no deserving local charity ever failed to receive his prompt, discreet and liberal response. Peculiar in his ways and methods, as reformers usually are, in his intercourse with his fellow-men, we believe that no honest, appreciative person ever listened to his critical counsel and pertinent suggestions without feeling in his heart that he was right, and faithful and sincerely desirous that better examples and purer purposes should be pursued. Many of his original trite sayings will long be remembered.

Mr. Sheppard died January 17, 1888, and of his family the following survive him, viz.: John S., a prominent and influential citizen of Penn Yan; Capt. Morris F., president of the Yates County National Bank of Penn Yan; and Mrs. Sarah F. S. Armstrong. All over the State and country the death of Mr. Sheppard, so long identified with Penn Yan, the center of his life-long activities and generous benefactions, was received with regret and impressive consideration. Life is judged by its results, and his was known to all.

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## CHAPTER XXX.

### FAMILY SKETCHES.

TO enumerate all of the old and prominent families in Yates county would in itself make a large and pretentious volume, while it would be practically impossible to give a genealogical sketch of all. We have been compelled, owing to lack of space, to limit these sketches to only those who have felt and manifested an interest in pre-



serving the records of their ancestors. In this chapter biographical notices have been collected and printed of those whose descendants to-day form the business and social life of the stated localities.

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#### TOWN OF MILO.

Baxter, Gilbert, was born in Covert, Seneca County, N. Y., in June, 1839, and came with his father's family to Milo in 1831. They settled on the Thomas Bennett farm on the east road, and here Gilbert has ever since lived. Thomas Baxter, his father, died here in March, 1864. In October, 1852, Gilbert married Emeline Titus, of Milo, by whom he had seven children, six of whom are living, viz.: Gilbert C., Ella, Lida, George, William, and M. Louise.

Bigger, Garrett Ayers, born in Sullivan County, Pa., September 5, 1846, was a son of James and Catherine Bigger. At the age of twelve he came to live with Garrett Ayers in Milo, where he was brought up to farm work. About twenty-five years ago Mr. Bigger purchased the Adam Struble farm, but bought his present place in 1877. It is devoted principally to fruit and grape growing. In 1868 he married Mary M. Longor. They have no children. Both are members of the Baptist Church. In politics Mr. Bigger is a Republican, and in 1888 he was elected as such to the office of justice of the peace.

Bogart, Theodore, was born in the town of Milo, October 5, 1828. He was the youngest of the seven children of Cornelius and Phebe (Cornwell) Bogart. His early education was acquired in the common schools of the town. His first business venture was the manufacture of fanning mills in Penn Yan, Bath and Perry, New York State. Afterwards he did a large business in company with Adam Oliver, of Ingersoll, Canada, in the manufacture and sale of these celebrated mills. He also sold the famous Seth Thomas Clocks in Canada. In his business enterprises Mr. Bogart has been fairly successful, and has acquired a comfortable competency. He married Mary A., daughter of Daniel Brennan, in 1863, and they had two children, Josephine and Louise, both of whom are living. Mrs. Bogart died in 1874. Theodore Bogart has

been for years a prominent figure in Yates County politics, and is recognized as one of the stalwart Republican leaders in the county seat. In 1858 Mr. Bogart was elected collector of the town of Milo and was supervisor of the same town four terms, as will be seen by reference to the succession in the history of Yates County, published by honorable S. C. Cleveland. In the fall of 1873 he was elected sheriff of Yates County and served one full term of three years. Mr. Bogart is recognized as a man of the strictest integrity, a true friend—careful in all his business relations, and is justly esteemed by his fellow citizens.

Bragg, Ethan, born in Erie County, N. Y., about 1822, married Eliza Finch, of Milo, by whom he had two children, Martin and Zalmuna. In 1862 Mr. Bragg enlisted in the 126th Infantry New York Volunteers, and was discharged with his regiment. Zalmuna Bragg, born March 27, 1857, in Milo, was educated in the public schools and in Starkey Seminary and Oberlin College. August 20, 1885, he married Ida A., daughter of Sanford Kriss, of Starkey. Mr. Bragg is a farmer and fruit grower. His maternal grandfather was a soldier in the war of 1812.

Buxton, William W., was a son of John Buxton, jr., and the grandson of John, sr., the latter one of the pioneers of Milo. William W. was born in Milo August 9, 1837. He started out in life with a determination to possess a thorough education, but financial reverses coming to his father changed his plans and compelled his return to the farm. He exhibited a remarkable inclination and taste for geology and mineralogy, and in these fields he has indulged so far as time would permit. His chief occupation is farming and fruit and grape growing. In 1861 Mr. Buxton married Sarah C. Babcock, by whom he has two children, John G. and Watts. The latter died in infancy.

Cheney, T. Apoleon, born in Leon, Cattaraugus County, N. Y., March 16, 1830, was educated in the public schools and graduated from Oberlin College, June 12, 1851. He married Julia R. Towers, of Conewango, N. Y. She was born April 9, 1829. They had five children: Louis A., Julia E., Willis, Francis and George B. Louis A. Cheney was born April 29, 1852, at Leon, N. Y. He is a fruit grower and apiarist. March 5, 1875, he married Ida J., daughter of Samuel P. Bryant of Covington, Tioga County, Pa. They have one daughter, Mabel, living, born February 5, 1889.

Chubb, Ira, became a resident of Himrods in Yates County, in 1887, but was a native of Steuben County, N. Y., being born at Bradford in 1845. He was a farmer. In 1862 he enlisted in Company D, 161st New York Volunteers, and served three years and three months. He was scalded on a gunboat and made prisoner at Sabine Pass. Thereafter he was confined in the rebel prisons at Husted, Hemstead and Tyler or eleven months, before being exchanged. He then rejoined his command and completed his term. In 1866 Mr. Chubb married Rebecca Dickinson, by whom he has two children. Since living at Himrods he has devoted his time to speculation.

Cornell, William, born in Ireland March 6, 1841, came to America with his parents in 1851, and first located in Bradford, Steuben County, N. Y. He then lived with Daniel Washburn in Altay, Schuyler County, N. Y., one year and six months, and then resided with his uncle, William R. Baskins in Starkey, until he was twenty-one years old. He then came to Milo and worked for George L. Jones. September 4, 1864, he enlisted in Company I, 148th Infantry Volunteers, and participated in the battles of Chapin's Farm and Fair Oaks. In the latter fight he was captured with fifty-six others of his regiment and taken to Libby Prison, where he remained a short time, and was then taken to Salisbury, N. C., where he remained until February 22, 1865, and was then taken to Raleigh, where he was paroled and sent to Wilmington, N. C., where he and others were turned over to the United States authorities and sent to Annapolis, Md. He was discharged July 19, 1865, at Elmira, N. Y. December 30, 1865, he married a daughter of Henry Spears, of Tyrone, Schuyler County, N. Y. They have two children, Eva and William.

Dewey, David E., the proprietor of the popular resort known as the "Ark," was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1842. At the outbreak of the late war he was in the south and was conscripted into the Confederate service. After three years he deserted and came into the Union camp. He was wounded on the first day of the Battle of the Wilderness. He afterward resided in Wayne County, Michigan, and came to New York State in 1876. In 1880 he purchased the "Ark" property from Calvin Carpenter, remodeled it and improved it, and made it the popular resort that it is. The mineral springs here have become almost famous.

Dunn, Homer W., was born in Painted Post, Steuben County, N. Y., March 4, 1814, was educated in the public schools, and was a farmer by occupation. January 17, 1839, he married Mary A., daughter of Russell A. Hunt, by whom he had five children: Rebekah A., Theron T., who married Carrie A. Holden and resides in Chicago, Ill.; Florence H., who married Thomas Ellis and lives in Watkins, N. Y.; Willis C., Carrabel, who married S. Frank Swarthout and resides in Milo. Rebekah A. and Willis C. are unmarried and remain at the homestead with their mother. Mr. Dunn is a successful farmer, giving particular attention to breeding fine stock.

Fiero, John C., was born in Ulster County, N. Y., October 28, 1816, a son of Abram and Mary Fiero. In April, 1842, he came to Milo Center with a stock of goods, and started in trade. He was in business here for six years, when he moved to Cass County, Mich., where he kept a store for three years. Returning thence to Milo, Mr. Fiero bought the old Abel Hunt farm, on which he has since lived in comfort and quiet. On the 14th of February, 1844, in Milo, he married Mary A., daughter of William W. Aspell. Five children have been born of this marriage: William H., Frank J., John A., Helen and Etta. John C. Fiero is one of the strong Republicans of Milo, but of late years he has taken no active part in politics. He was assessor of the town three years.

Gano, Emmett, born in Dundee, June 7, 1850, was the son of Joseph and Adaline (Reader) Gano, and the youngest of six children. Emmett was reared on his father's farm, and at the age of twenty started out for himself. In 1874 he bought from Penfield Mulford 124 acres of land in Milo, one of the best and most pleasantly situated tracts in the town. On this property Mr. Gano has made material changes and improvements and now has ten acres of vineyard, six acres of berries, fourteen acres of apple orchard, and between 400 and 500 peach trees. On June 12, 1888, he married Ruth Ann, daughter of Henry and Marietta Hicks, of Penn Yan, N. Y. Mr. Gano and his wife are members of the First Presbyterian Church of Penn Yan.

Gardner Family, The.—Mary Reynolds married George Gardner, of North Kingston, R. I. She was a firm believer in the doctrines of Je-



mima Wilkinson, and one of her most faithful followers. Leaving her husband behind she brought her children, Dorcas, Abner and George, and settled near the Friend's residence on the west shore of Seneca Lake. Dorcas Gardner, born in 1779, married Eleazer Ingham, jr., and their children were John, Abigail, Mary, George, Rhoda, Rachel and Nancy. Abner Gardner, born in 1781, married Mary, daughter of Rowland Champlin, in 1814. Their children were Mary S., George W., Rowland J., and Abner. The father died in 1860, the mother in 1858. Mary S., unmarried, died in 1839; George W., born in 1816, married Mary, daughter of Daniel Husted, reside in Torrey. Their children are Melville G., married, and a prosperous citizen of Michigan; Hannah, married, and living in Michigan; Charles, single, residing with his parents; Mary married and at home.

Gardner, Rowland J., was born in 1821 and married first, Lydia L., daughter of Henry Hunt. His second wife is Emma, daughter of Stephen Bennett. They reside on lot 21. Mr. Gardner is a prominent stock grower and an honored and useful citizen. Their children are Rowland J., born in 1865; Jonathan J. born in 1867; Mary L., born in 1870; Lee B., born in 1873; George A., born in 1875; and Emma D., born in 1877. Rowland J., Jonathan J., and Mary L., are married and live near the paternal home. Abner Gardner, jr., born in 1825, married Sarah, daughter of John Stone. Their children are Rowland J. 2d, born in 1850, and Abner Elmer, born in 1862. Both sons are married and are intelligent, useful citizens. Intelligence, thrift and hospitality mark all the members of this family, and the heads of these families have all been honored by the suffrages of the people with positions of trust and honor.

Haines, Egbert, born in Putnam County in the town of Southeast, January 5, 1824, was the son of Edmund and Sarah Haines. He lived for a time in Chenango County, but in January, 1854, went to Torrey, Yates County. In 1881 Mr. Haines bought an excellent location near Penn Yan, and since that time has made his home at the latter place. On December 14, 1846, he married Amelia Townsend. They have no children. Both are members of the Baptist Church at Benton.

Henderson, James A., son of Samuel and Henrietta F. Henderson, was born in Milo, March 24, 1822. At the age of twenty-eight he

commenced railroading on the Erie and later went to Georgia and Mississippi, where he was at the commencement of the war. He was not conscripted into the Confederate service, but stayed south voluntarily, conducting trains and doing other railroad service under military authority. In 1863 he returned to Milo and purchased 137 acres in the south part of the town. Here he has since lived, devoting his time to agricultural pursuits. In 1858, at Brooklyn, N. Y., Mr. Henderson married Mary E. Abbey, by whom he had four children. In 1871 Mrs. Henderson died, and April 3, 1888, Mr. Henderson married Mary E., daughter of Alexander Bell.

Hollowell, John B., was born in the town of Milo on the farm on which he now resides on October 5, 1820. He was the son of Joseph and Eleanor Hollowell, old and highly respected residents. Joseph was a shoemaker by trade, but took to farming as a more suitable occupation. Both he and his wife died on the farm now occupied by John B. The latter has always lived on this farm, but the improvements he has made have entirely changed its appearance. John B. Hollowell married Mercy E. Sprague, and to them have been born six children: Eleanor, De Witt, Olive, John, Alice and Franc. He is a prominent member, steward and class-leader of the M. E. Church at Milo Center. In politics he has been a Republican, but is now a staunch Prohibitionist.

Hyatt, Nelson, was born in Covert, Seneca County, N. Y., March 2, 1831, the son of Abram and Mary (Smith) Hyatt, of that place. He has followed various occupations commencing as school teacher, then as instructor in music, followed by several years as editor of weekly newspapers (the *Dundee Record*, *Waterloo Observer* and the *Ovid Independent*), and at other and intermediate times his favorite calling, that of teaching music. While connected with the *Dundee Record* he studied law in the office of Seeley & Wolcott, and was admitted to practice in 1857, but has never practiced his profession. About 1875 he came to reside in Milo, just outside the limits of Penn Yan. Here he has entered into a fine grape and fruit-growing business, together with music teaching. In 1862 Mr. Hyatt married Celia Wright, of Waterloo. Two children have been born of this marriage.

Jones, Seth Nelson, son of Seth and Rachel (Fitzwater) Jones, was born in August, 1833. Both parents were of old pioneer stock in the county, and both were members of respected families. The old Jones home farm is still in the family, the property of Seth N. At eighteen years of age S. Nelson started for himself. He worked on the farm summers and taught school winters. About eighteen years ago he came to Himrods, and entering commercial life as the active member in partnership with G. S. Ayres, became a dealer in grain, coal, lumber, seeds and phosphates, doing an extensive and successful business. In 1858 he married Margaret Rapalee, by whom he has had one child, Herbert A. Jones.

Jones, Asa L., born in Milo, October 11, 1826, and a son of Seth and Rachel Jones, has always been a farmer, teaching school winters, with few exceptions, from 1847 to 1872. Prior to 1872 he and his brother Loring owned a farm in Starkey. In politics Mr. Jones is independent, taking no practical active part in the prevailing conduct and management of the different organized parties, but possessing a lively interest in local, State and national affairs, as becomes every good citizen.

Jones, Josiah, came to the State of New York in 1806, and located near the village of Himrods. His son Seth, born August 23, 1786, in East Greenwich, came with his parents from Vermont to Milo when a young man. February 5, 1823, he married Rachel, daughter of George Fitzwater, of Milo. She was born December 13, 1796. They had five children: George L., Asa L., born October 11, 1826; Loring G., born January 6, 1830, died May 25, 1890; and Allen C. George L. Jones, born May 11, 1825, was educated in the public schools and in Starkey Seminary. After a varied career he settled on a farm and October 1, 1867, he married Mary E., daughter of Samuel Embree, of Torrey. Allen C. Jones was born in Milo, November 22, 1835, was educated in the public schools, and is a prosperous farmer. March 6, 1866, he married Eliza, daughter of Moses Rapalee, of Torrey. S. Nelson Jones, born August 10, 1833, received an academic education, and is a farmer and grain, coal and lumber dealer. February 4, 1858, he married Margaret, daughter of Miles G. Raplee, of Milo. They had one son, Herbert A. Mrs. Jones died April 27, 1883. Herbert A. Jones was

born October 24, 1860, and was educated in Starkey Seminary. In 1882 he began farming and the nursery business on the homestead farm, and has made a successful business in all branches. December 14, 1881, he married Josephine E., daughter of John H. Plattman, of Bellona. They have had two children, Leslie Gordon, born August 29, 1886, and died June 16, 1891, and Margaret Maria, born February 17, 1889, now living.

In 1830 there left England for America a colony of farmers under Winthrop and Salstonstall, and among them were William, Nicholas and Roger Knapp, brothers. William located in Watertown, Mass., in 1630. His children were William, Mary, Elizabeth, Ann, Judith, John and James. Nicholas settled at the same place. By his wife Eleanor he had seven children: Jonathan, Timothy, Joshua, Caleb, Sarah, Ruth and Hannah. In 1648 he moved to Stamford, Conn., where he had two children, Moses and Lydia, by his wife, Unity. Roger located in New Haven, and later at Fairfield, Conn., where by his will he mentions his wife Elizabeth, and children Jonathan, Josiah, Lydia, Roger, John, Nathaniel, Eliza and Mary. James Knapp came from Dutchess County to Cortland, and thence to Yates County in 1815. He served in the war of 1776 as drum major for over six years, and was in the Indian raid with General Sullivan in 1779. He married Lucy C. Ball, by whom he had four children, Anna B., Samuel C., James A., and Pamela. The parents died in 1831, aged respectively sixty-seven and sixty-six years. James A. Knapp was born in 1794, and in 1816 married Margaret Heltibidal. They had nine children, George H., Marsena V. B., Aaron P., Samuel A., Mary L., Charles F., Oliver C., William C., and Franklin R. The latter was born in Penn Yan, June 18, 1844, and was a soldier in the Union army during the Rebellion. October 2, 1867, he married Frances A., daughter of John and Lucy A. Shepard, of Milo. She was born at Reed's Corners, Ontario County, N. Y. Her father, John Shepard, born in Norfolk, England, came to America in 1838 and located in Gorham, Ontario County, N. Y. Mr. Shepard moved to Himrods in 1876, and was proprietor of the hotel which Mr. Knapp now conducts, for eighteen years.

Longwell, Andrew, born in Bath, N. Y., in June, 1840, was the youngest son of Orrin and Rebecca Longwell. The father came to Milo in



1857, settling on the farm on which Andrew Longwell now lives, and on which he died in 1867. The place descended to him on his paying the interests to the other heirs. In 1867 Mr. Longwell married Rebecca Miller, by whom he has had three children.

McFarlane, Duncan, was born in Dunbartonshire, Scotland, in 1788. About 1835 he married Christina Smith. They came to America and located at Hamden, Delaware County, N. Y. They had eight children, Jane, Helen, Mary, Andrew, John S. and Margaret. Andrew was a soldier of the late war and died in Andersonville Prison. John S., born June 21, 1835, in early manhood was a farmer. May 2, 1861, he married Margaret J., daughter of William Fraser, a Presbyterian minister of Hamden, Delaware County, N. Y. They have had seven children, William A., M. Lizzie, Nellie C., Jennie S. and Jessie C. (twins), Margaret, and one who died in infancy. William A. is a merchant with his father. John S. McFarlane enlisted in Company C, 14th Inf. New York Vols., August 26, 1862, and served until the close of the war. He was promoted corporal October 1, 1864, and subsequently second sergeant. Upon his return to Milo he was section foreman on the Northern Central Railroad for eight years. He then became a general merchant in Himrods. He is a member of Sloan Post, G. A. R.

Miller, David, tenth of fourteen children born to Samuel V. C. and Esther C. Miller, was born in New Jersey and came with the family to Milo in 1823. David was born September 13, 1822, and lived on the old family homestead on Lake Keuka. He is a farmer and vineyardist, having been one of the pioneers of the latter industry in this locality. In 1868 he married Pricilla A. Haight, of Jerusalem, of which marriage three children have been born. Two of these, Jessie M. and David E., are living. The old farm comprises 118 acres, of which twenty are in vineyard.

Miller, James, was born in Steuben County, N. Y., March 22, 1819, the eldest of five children. Soon after he reached the age of ten years his father died, leaving a farm of fifty acres partly improved, and an ox team. With the assistance of a brother and his mother, James carried on the farm and kept the family together until he attained his majority. His time was spent alternately on the farm and in the district school

during these early years, supplemented by a brief attendance at the Penn Yan Academy. After teaching school for a few terms, and attending an academy and a select school, he entered the academy at Aurora, Cayuga County, in 1842. He then devoted his attention to the lumber and transportation business until 1850, when he assumed the management of the farm on which he now resides. Mr. Miller married, August 31, 1843, Hannah Benedict, whose father owned their present farm, which is Mrs. Miller's birthplace. They have two sons and a daughter, of whom the oldest son died December 21, 1881. The youngest son is now married and has a son and a daughter living. James Miller's daughter graduated from Vassar College in the class of '77. She taught Greek and Latin in the Chambersburg Female College one year and in Vassar College three years. She married Rev. P. W. Dorsey and now lives in Los Angeles, Cal. Mr. Miller is a leading farmer and an ardent advocate of the modern methods of agriculture. He is a writer of considerable ability upon agricultural topics, and in this field he has wielded a potent influence. It is safe to say that he doubled the products of the farm he occupies, and in the State at large has, through his teachings, materially increased the average farmer's income.

Miller, Samuel V., son of Samuel and Esther (Cutler) Miller, was born in New Jersey, February 8, 1814, and has lived in Yates County the greater part of his life. He is a farmer, the occupation to which he was brought up. May 8, 1842, he married Adeline (who was born May 15, 1815), daughter of Allen Vorce, by whom he had six children, Gertrude, Lois, Frank, Esther, Ella and Adeline. Mrs. Miller died March 15, 1861, and November 14, 1864, Mr. Miller married Drusilla, daughter of Jonathan Miles, by whom he has had three children, Samuel M., Charles W. and Lizzie B. Samuel V. Miller has for many years been one of the prominent men of Milo, though not conspicuous in public office. He is one who has been identified with the best interests of the town.

Nichols, Loring G., was born in Milo, August 22, 1822, the only survivor of four children born to Alexander and Mary Nichols, the latter of whom will be remembered by a few of the older people of Milo as having been a tanner and currier of the town. Loring G. was brought up in part to his father's trade but gave his attention more

particularly to farming. The old family homestead and farm are now his. At the age of twenty-three Loring married Charlotte Guile, daughter of Libbius B. and Minerva Guile, by whom he had four children, Libbius M., who married Lottie Sherman, Andrew F., who married Frances Briggs, Minnie C. (Mrs. C. H. Jennings), and Dora M. (Mrs. Frank Owen). Mr. Nichols is comfortably and pleasantly situated on his excellent farm, just south of Milo Center. In politics he is a Republican. He has held some of the minor offices of the town. He is a member of the Second Milo Baptist church.

Owen, Ira, a prosperous farmer, was born in Milo April 28, 1827, the son of Jonathan and Freeloove Owen. His father's children were Allen, Ira, Benjamin, Leonard, Minerva and Mary Jane. At the age of twenty-two he married Diantha, daughter of Ezekiel Swarthout. Three children have been born to them: Georgia (Mrs. Eugene Lewis), Lola (Mrs. Orson Brundage), and Merton, who carries on his father's farm, married Eva Bogers. Ira Owen has always been a farmer; he lives at Second Milo, about one mile from his farm property, and in politics he is a Republican, but takes no active part in the councils of his party. The family are members of the Second Milo Baptist Church.

Plimpton, John, came from Massachusetts and settled in Milo about 1796. He had eight children: Esther, who married Enoch Sherman; Rachel, who married Carlton Legg; Moses, who married Betsey Col-dren; Aaron; John, who married Harriet Holden; Rhoda, wife of Robert Taft; Polly (or Mary), wife of Chapin Taft; and Henry, who married Mary Ann Worden. All are now dead. Aaron Plimpton, born in Massachusetts in 1788, came with his father's family to Milo in 1796. He returned to Massachusetts in 1810, but came again into Milo in 1812 and afterwards worked in Abraham Wagener's mill at Penn Yan. He bought a farm some years later, and lived and died thereon. His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of George Hiltibidal, and a native of Sunbury, Pa. They had five children, viz.: Daniel, George W., Stephen V. R., Mary E. (Mrs. Andrew Thayer), and Ezra W. Aaron Plimpton died in 1866 and his wife in 1872. He was a prominent Democrat, but not an office seeker or holder, his interest was that of the substantial citizen, and not of the politician. His son, George W. Plimpton, lives on the homestead farm. He was born August 17, 1824, and has spent

his life in the town and on the same farm. In 1855 he married Caroline Stone, by whom he has had three children, two of whom, Ida E. and Aaron, are living. Mr. Plimpton is a Democrat by conviction.

Raplee, Delanson Munger, born in Milo, April 11, 1824, was the son of Ezra and Amarillus (Dains) Raplee. On his mother's side he is descended from one of the pioneers of western New York. He has always been a farmer in Milo and a successful, substantial one, too. In 1851 he married Elvira, daughter of Jonas Perry, of Otsego County. They have had three children: Frank P., Mary Frances, and Freddie A.

Raplee, Miners, son of Miles and Maria Raplee, was born in Milo October 23, 1841. He was reared on his father's farm, where he lived until his father's death. In his stables on his splendid farm on the Bath road in Milo can be found some of the best bred horses in Yates County, among them, the horse "Stillman" a half brother to the famous "Jerome Eddy" and son of old "Louis Napoleon". Mr. Raplee has a number of exceptionally fine animals. In 1877 he married Roena, daughter of James Spooner, of Milo, and they have had two children, Irene and Corrinne (twins).

Scutt, Seymour S., born in Columbia County, August 4, 1825, was the son of Henry and Mary Scutt. The family came to Milo in November, 1825, and settled in the south part of the town. In 1849 Seymour S. married Mary A., daughter of Thomas Fitzwater, an old resident of Milo, who came into the town at the age of five years, from Pennsylvania, and spent his life here. Mr. Scutt is a successful farmer and one whose interests are centered in his farms rather in public affairs. He is a Republican, but has never sought or held office. Both he and his wife are members of the Second Milo Baptist Church.

Shearman, George, one of the most energetic men of the country during his time, was born in Dublin, Ireland, March 24, 1790. He left home at the age of fourteen, and came to America. After living in Otsego two years he came to Penn Yan about 1808, where he had a store near the corner of Main and Jacob streets. Here he was engaged in trade some twenty-five or thirty years. He built a hotel—the "American"—near, or on, the site of Cornwell's Opera House block, and a grist-mill, a potashery, and a distillery on the outlet. One of his



partners was Solomon D. Weaver, and during their association the firm operated two saw-mills, two grist-mills, and two distilleries. Mr. Shearman met with reverses that cost him his fortune, but others profited by his financial downfall. He retired to his farm south of the village, and engaged in the mercantile business in Penn Yan with a partner, Daniel B. Bissell, carrying on the largest dry goods business in this part of the country. After closing out this business, he engaged in grain buying. From this time on, his son Oliver, although quite young, was associated with his father, and at his death continued the business. Mr. Shearman was a captain of Light Horse Cavalry, having the largest company in the State, and escorted Gen. La Fayette on part of his tour through this State. He was always a Democrat and served as county clerk several terms. He was very public spirited and one of the foremost promoters of the building of the canal from Dresden to Penn Yan. On the 31st of March, 1811, he married Rebecca, daughter of David Wagener, by whom he had these children: Abraham W., William, Mary Ann, Mary Ann 2d, George, Rebecca, Eliza, Isabella, William 2d, Charles, Oliver G., and Eleanor. Of these children, only four, George, Charles, Oliver G., and Eleanor are living. Mrs. Shearman was a pious woman and a devoted Methodist, being one of the first class of fourteen, who held meetings about in private houses, before a church was organized. An incident is told of her having gone to Geneva, a distance of sixteen miles, on horseback, to attend Love Feast, and being then refused admission because she had two feathers on her bonnet. Mr. Shearman was trustee of the church and their house was a regular stopping place for all Methodist ministers. George Shearman died December 26, 1859, and his wife January 14, 1855. George Shearman, jr., born July 28, 1818, is the oldest representative of his family in the county. He is a substantial farmer of Milo, and one whose efforts in life have been rewarded with more than a fair degree of success. December 5, 1840, he married Phebe Baxter, of Milo, by whom he has had two children, Abram and Mary, the latter the wife of Capt. Abraham Gridley. The farm on which Mr. Shearman lives was formerly known as the Stewart farm, and this Mr. Shearman purchased before his marriage, about the year 1838. He is a devoted member and trustee of the Penn Yan M. E. Church.

Spooner, Leonard T., was born in Milo November 27, 1819, the son of Luther and Hannah Spooner, both old and respected residents of the

town. On January 1, 1844, Leonard married Mary Ann Nichols and settled on the farm where he now lives. He has always been a farmer, careful and conservative in action, but true to his convictions of right. One child was born to them, Marvin L. Spooner, a graduate from Syracuse University, and at present a professor of mathematics in Keuka College. Mrs. Spooner died, after an illness of only a few hours, July 26, 1891. M. L. Spooner was married August 10, 1881, to Lina A. Hunt, daughter of Adam Hunt. They have two children, L. H. Spooner, born August 4, 1888, and Laura M. Spooner, born August 4, 1890.

Stone, John and Abigail (Winship), were pioneers in Milo, N. Y., coming from Chester County, Pa., in 1797 and locating on the farm now owned by Calvin H. Stone. In their family were nine children. John Stone died in the town in December, 1873. Calvin H. Stone has always lived on this farm, having been born here September 15, 1815. The property was sold to him by his father prior to the latter's death. In 1849 Calvin married Mary A. Keeler by whom he has two children, John A. and Charles A. Mr. Stone was formerly a Democrat, but changed his views on account of his opinions on the slavery question, which to his mind made Democracy and anti-slavery incompatible. He has since then been a strong Republican, and as such was assessor of his town for twenty-three years. He is also a faithful member of the Second Milo Church (Baptist) and for about thirty years has been superintendent of its Sunday school.

Swarthout, John, was born in Barrington, May 13, 1835, being one of the younger children of George F. and Roena (Russell) Swarthout. Of the older branch of this family mention will be found in another part of this present volume. George F. Swarthout died in 1853, leaving \$900 to each of his children. With his share John bought a part of the Owens farm in Milo. In March, 1858, he married Ann E., daughter of Jonathan Spencer. Two children have been born of this marriage, neither of whom is now living. John Swarthout is considered one of the successful farmers of Milo, and one who finds profit as well as pleasure in his work. He is prominent in town affairs and is a staunch Republican. He has held the office of commissioner of highways for more than nine years.

Swarthout, William R., was born in Barrington, August 20, 1823, the third of eleven children born to George F. and Roena (Russell) Swarthout. William R., more familiarly known as Deacon Swarthout by reason of his long term as deacon (thirty years) of the Second Milo Baptist Church, commenced life as a farmer by buying fifty acres from his father, but between that and the time of purchasing his present farm, he had lived on various farms in the town and in Torrey. His present property was formerly known as the Baxter Kinney Place, containing 100 acres, and located about a mile south of Penn Yan. In 1845 he married Hannah Ann Spooner, by whom he had two children, Hortense and Hattie M., both of whom are married. Deacon Swarthout has been an industrious and successful farmer.

Three brothers of the Taylor family came from Wales, England, to America at an early day. One was killed by the Indians. John Taylor was born in Sheffield, Mass., March 13, 1771, being on his father's side of Welsh descent and on his mother's side of Scotch. He died in Starkey on March 9, 1857, revered by all as an upright citizen. One of his children by his second marriage was John W., who was born September 18, 1819, in Starkey and was educated in the public schools. He spent one year in Ovid Academy and two years in Canandaigua Academy, graduating finally from Wabash College in 1851. He went south and taught in the academy at Raleigh, Tenn., for one year and for two years was tutor in a private family at Holly Springs, Miss. He then returned to his native State and was admitted to the bar and practiced law with Kernan and others. May 17, 1854, he married Elizabeth T., daughter of Russell A. and Ann M. Hunt, of Milo. They had one son, Frank R., born June 7, 1860, in Canandaigua. After attending the common schools Frank R. spent three years at Penn Yan Academy and one year in Hobart College at Geneva. He then taught school for three years. November 24, 1886, he married H. Anna, daughter of Amos E. Vanorsdall, of Himrods. She was born October 7, 1864. Mr. Taylor is a prosperous farmer and fruit grower.

Thayer family, the. Jacob Thayer, son of Simeon Thayer, one of the pioneers of Yates County, was born September 29, 1806, and died in September, 1886. His wife, Sarah Ann McIntyre, was born August 27, 1815, and died in June, 1883. They were married September 26, 1830.

Their children were Archibald, born June 22, 1831; Susan N., born May 9, 1833, died June 5, 1869; Simeon, born May 18, 1835; Sylvester N., born May 7, 1837; Jacob W., born April 7, 1839; James K., born October 30, 1841; and Angeline A., born June 4, 1847. Archibald Thayer, better known from his long service on Crooked Lake as Capt. Archie Thayer, left the lake in 1887 and moved to the homestead farm where he now has one of the best vineyards in the town of Milo. December 25, 1855, he married Minerva Wheeler.

Thayer, Jacob W., son of Jacob Thayer, was born in Milo April 7, 1839. He bought a sixty acre farm from his father on the lake road and in 1864 he purchased a fifty-acre farm on the Bath road. This latter has been sold in parcels until Mr. Thayer has but little left—about seventeen acres—which is all in vineyard. On November 15, 1859, he married Marietta, daughter of Joel Workman, of Milo. They have two children, Anna Amelia and William Joel. Mr. Thayer has been an extensive traveler, selling agricultural implements over a territory of eleven States for D. M. Osborn & Co. of Auburn. He is also the inventor and builder of a binder that has done excellent work.

Thayer, James, the son of Simeon Thayer, the pioneer, was born May 29, 1810 (died January 8, 1881), and married Zenecia, daughter of Allen Bassett, of Barrington, by whom he had six children: James A., Emma, Laura, Fanny, Mary and one who died in infancy. James Thayer is remembered as having been one of the best farmers and one of the foremost men of the town of Milo. James A. Thayer, who succeeded his father in the ownership of the farm, was born in Milo, April, 26, 1843, educated in the common schools and Prof. Ayres' select school, also at the Penn Yan Academy, and at the age of sixteen began teaching winter school, continuing for eight years. In 1867 he married Allie, daughter of James Lawrence, of Milo, by whom he had one child, May, the wife of H. E. Huie, of Springfield, Mass. Mrs. Thayer died September 22, 1884, and in January, 1886, Mr. Thayer married Nellie S. Huie, of Rushville, N. Y., by whom he has one child, Zenecia. He is one of the most progressive and successful farmers of Milo, having been honored several times with positions of trust and importance. He was clerk of the board of supervisors in 1883-84, school commissioner of Yates County from 1885 to 1891. For a number of years he has been president



of the County Teacher's Association, is now a director of the Farmer's Alliance Insurance Co., and for several years served as secretary of the Yates County Agricultural Society. He is a prominent member of the M. E. Church and for three years was superintendent of its Sunday school.

Thayer, James K., the sixth child of Jacob Thayer, and the grandson of Simeon Thayer, was born in Milo, October 31, 1841. He lived at home until twenty years old, when he started out to make his own way in life. Two years later he married Helen C. Freeman, of Milo, by whom he had two children, both of whom died in infancy. Mr. Thayer's farm comprises sixty-one acres of land on the east shore of Crooked Lake. He is a thrifty and industrious farmer and fruit grower. In politics he is a conservative Democrat. Both himself and wife are members of the Penn Yan M. E. Church.

Thayer, Simeon 2d, born in Milo, May 18, 1835, was the third child of Jacob and Sarah Ann Thayer. Simeon was reared on the farm; for one year he was foreman on a railroad construction train. He first began farming where Jacob W. Thayer now lives. His present property is a twenty-three-acre vineyard on Lake Keuka. In 1856 Mr. Thayer married Elizabeth Raplee, who died, leaving two children. His second wife was Mary Morris, to whom one child has been born.

Youngs, Isaiah, was born in Milo, N. Y., August 19, 1819, and was the second of six children born to George and Rebecca Youngs, both of the later being old and highly respected citizens of the town. Isaiah was brought up to farm work, and at the age of twenty-five commenced conducting his father's farm, being the same that Isaiah now owns. He lived there from 1846 to 1887, when he removed to his present location. In 1846 he married Sybilla L., daughter of John Matthias, of Milo; four children were born to them, of whom one is deceased. Mr. Youngs is one of Milo's substantial Democrats, and as well one of the town's foremost citizens. For one term he held the office of town assessor.

## VILLAGE OF PENN YAN.

Barden, William W., M.D., born in Penn Yan, January, 1845, read medicine with his father, Henry Barden ; graduated from Pennsylvania Homœopathic College in 1869, after which he located in Penn Yan, where he has practiced since. Married in 1882, Cornelia McCartey, of Penn Yan.

Barden, Henry, son of Otis, was born in Benton in 1806. He graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1833, and began practice in his native town, continuing there for several years, locating finally in Penn Yan about 1840, where he died in 1873. He married Caroline Purdy, of Benton, by whom he had two children, Helen, wife of Cornelius S. Van Wyck, who resides in Benton, and W. W., a physician who resides in Penn Yan.

Beebe, George, born in Albany County, became a resident of Penn Yan when about twenty-four years of age. He was employed by Timothy Brigden in a carriage shop which stood where the present large Beebe factory is now located. In 1872 the plant burned, after which Mr. Beebe bought the land and erected new buildings. For a time W. H. Whitfield was a partner in the business of carriage manufacturing. The firm of Beebe, Whitfield & Co. continued eleven years and then dissolved, Mr. Beebe since conducting the business. His chief manufactures are carriages and speeding carts. He furnishes employment to about twenty-five hands. The works are in Jacob street in Penn Yan village. In 1862 George Beebe enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Forty-eighth New York Volunteer Infantry, and served three years. In March, 1857, at Mohawk, N. Y., he married Ann Eliza Woolever, by whom he had two sons. Ann E. Beebe died in 1878. In 1879 he married Susan M. Nelson, of Little Falls. One child has been born of this marriage.

Comings, George A., born in Bergen County, N. J., March 31, 1856. When twelve years of age, his father, Morris Comings, moved to Penn Yan. George attended the common schools of Penn Yan, Cook and Geneva Academies, and in 1883 he married Eda L. Shepherd, of Rochester, by whom he had one son, Jesse A. George A. taught school

three years, and was clerk for Morgan & Perkins for ten years. In March, 1891, he opened a coal yard under the firm name of Shepherd-Comings Coal Co., on Jackson and Shepherd streets.

Dintruff, Jacob, a native of Penn Yan, came to Potter about 1800, being one of the pioneers in that town. He was a farmer, and had twelve children, of whom four sons and one daughter survive. John L., the third child, was born November 27, 1821, and was educated at the common schools of his native town. He married Lucy Thomas, of Potter, by whom he had five children, two deceased. He was engaged in farming until 1849, when he removed to Italy, and carried on a saw-mill for two years. In 1851 he moved to Middlesex and carried on farming there until 1871, when he was elected sheriff of Yates County. He then removed to Penn Yan, where he has since resided. He was road commissioner three years in Middlesex, was assessor six years, supervisor two years, has been six years assessor in Penn Yan corporation, was vice-president of Yates County Bank four years, and is a member of the firm of Dintruff & Dwelle, wool dealers—the largest in Yates County. Mr. Dintruff has been in the business thirty-five years.

Doubleday, Dr. Charles E., son of Dr. Guy L., was born in Italy, N. Y., April 3, 1864. Both his father and grandfather Elisha, were also physicians. His early education was attained in the schools of Penn Yan. He read medicine with Dr. Nathan Jacobson, and in 1887 he graduated from the Syracuse Medical College. He then spent two years in Europe, where he was a student in the Universities of Heidelberg and Vienna, at the former place being under the tutelage of Prof. Arnold. Dr. Doubleday opened an office in Penn Yan in April, 1890. He has done much work with the microscope. During his vacations he spent considerable time traveling in different parts of Europe. Dr. Doubleday has been health officer of the village of Penn Yan. He has attained eminence and honor even thus early in his chosen profession and bears with modesty and becoming dignity the mantles descended from father and grandfather.

Drake, Capt. Alexander H., son of Philip L., was born October 18, 1832, in Starkey. He was educated at the common schools, and served several years as clerk in the hotels in Penn Yan, Canandaigua, and

Geneva, and fifteen years in Kansas City. In 1861 he enlisted in Company H, Thirty-third New York Volunteers, from Geneva. He enlisted as private; at the organization was made second lieutenant, and at the organization of the regiment was made first lieutenant, May 25, 1861. After nine months' service he was promoted captain, June 24, 1862. He was captured at Williamsburgh, N. C., May 5, 1862, and after three and a half months of imprisonment was exchanged. He was in Libby prison twenty days, then taken to Salisbury, where he was paroled. On September 13, 1887, he married Ida Wagoner Thompson, widow of Nelson Thompson, and daughter of George Wagoner.

Elmendorf, Charles, was born at Canandaigua, May 13, 1829. His father was Joseph Elmendorf, well known as one of the early business men of the little village. His mother was Catharine (Chittenden) Elmendorf. They came to Canandaigua from Durham, Greene County, N. Y. Charles was the eldest of three children, viz.: Charles, William, and Eliza. His father was a dentist and to this occupation Charles was brought up and educated by his father, and was associated with him until the death of the former in December, 1871. In September, 1863, Charles Elmendorf made an extensive trip to Nicaragua and California, being away nineteen months. In April, 1865, he returned to Penn Yan, where he has since been engaged in dentistry. For a time, when about twenty-one years of age, Dr. Elmendorf practiced at Rushville, remaining there about a year. From Rushville he went to Jefferson—now Watkins, Schuyler County, N. Y.,—where he practiced dentistry about two years, when he returned to Penn Yan. He is a prominent Odd Fellow, having passed the chair of N. G., and is also P. C. P. of Penn Yan Encampment, I. O. O. F. He is a P. M. of the local lodge of the A. O. U. W. In politics he is a Republican, and in religion a Free thinker. He says he “never ‘took any stock’ in the supernatural religion of any church or sect,” believing “that just, charitable, moral conduct towards his fellow-men is all that is necessary to become acceptable to any of the gods.”

Gage, William Hoyt, was born near Bellona, June 22, 1810. His wife, Abigail Reed Fargo, was born April 7, 1810. They were married February 9, 1832. William Gage's father, Reuben Gage, was born in Dutchess County, N. Y. At the age of sixteen, William learned the



trade of carriagemaker at Penn Yan, at which he worked several years, in various places. He later purchased the Kipp farm in Benton and became a farmer. About ten years ago he bought the Stewart place on Flat street where he now resides. Mr. Gage is the owner of more than 200 acres of land.

Hewson, Robert C., a solid business man and an enthusiastic supporter of the Greenback party, was born in Milo in 1831, the son of Fisher W. and Hannah (Chissom) Hewson. He read law with Franklin & Van Allen, and with Van Buren & Prosser, and was admitted to the bar. He practiced but little, however, having a stronger interest for other pursuits. His business life has been devoted to lumbering mainly, and fruit growing. About 1880 he started the evaporator at the "head of the street," and in 1890 established the feeder mill on Sucker Brook. In 1888 Mr. Hewson married Lue A., daughter of Haverly Brooks, of Auburn. Mr. Hewson's mother was one of the first settlers in Penn Yan.

Hopestill, R. Phillips, was born in Tioga County, Pa., August 1, 1835, the eldest son and child of Samuel and Sarah (Beecher) Phillips. Samuel was a dentist. After his elementary education was acquired he made a study of dental surgery under his father's instruction. Later he attended the lectures of the Baltimore Dental College. In 1857 he commenced professional work at Winchester, Va., and there he was at the outbreak of the war in 1861. His professional interests being such that he could not leave at the time, he voluntarily enlisted as private, but was promoted to the lieutenantancy of Co. K, of the 10th Virginia cavalry, and served until July 2, 1863, when he was captured at Gettysburg by the Union troops, and thereafter held at Johnson's Island in Lake Erie. After his release Lieutenant Phillips resumed the profession of dentistry successively at a southern city, in Tioga County, Pa., at Bath, N. Y., and finally at Penn Yan, in 1887, where he has since remained, occupying commodious and elegantly equipped offices. Associated with him in business is his son-in-law, Robert S. Wrean, under the firm name of H. R. Phillips & Wrean. Dr. Phillips is genial and companionable. He is something of a sportsman, fishing, hunting and yachting being his chief recreations. His yacht, *The Thistle*, is one of the staunchest and fleetest on Lake Keuka.. The wife of Dr. Phil-

lips is Pamela Ann Rednor, of Potter County, Pa. They have five children.

Kelley, Charles, the genial proprietor of the Central House in Penn Yan, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1831, and in 1846 came to America with his father and stepmother, making the entire distance from his home to Penn Yan by water. He learned the painter's trade and worked at it several years, and afterward read law with A. V. Harpending for a time, but did not continue the study. In 1860 he bought a part of the property now covered by his hotel and soon after made other purchases. In 1862 he helped to raise a company for the Rebellion, and was mustered in in October, 1862, he taking a commission as second lieutenant of Co. C, Forty-fourth New York Volunteers, Infantry, "Ellsworth's Avengers." He was mustered out in 1864 with the rank of brevet-captain. Returning from the service, Captain Kelly remodeled his Jacob street property and opened a hotel. The buildings were burned in 1872 and at once rebuilt. The Central House is one of the most popular hostleries of Penn Yan. In 1876 Mr. Kelly married Margaret A., daughter of Francis Graham, of Geneva. Four children have been born to them, three of whom are living.

Knapp, Clarence H., born in Barrington June 5, 1846, was the son of Jesse C. and Rachel M. Knapp, of that town. His father was a farmer, and on the farm Clarence was reared and lived until about twenty-one years of age, when he went to Elmira and was engaged for the next five years as grocer and fire insurance agent. Leaving Elmira Mr. Knapp went to Addison, and was a furniture dealer and undertaker for five years. While residing at this place he began traveling on the road, and so continued until the fall of 1884, when he came to Penn Yan. The next year he established his present business of furniture and undertaking. Mr. Knapp is regarded as one of the enterprising and successful business men of the village. In 1882 he married Ida J. Bates, of Utica. In politics he is a Republican, but is not active in party work.

Lanning, Daniel, son of Isaac and Catherine (Swartz) Lanning, was born in Starkey May 16, 1816. At the age of twenty-one Daniel commenced farming, continuing until 1854. In 1856 he moved to Penn

Yan to assume the office of sheriff, to which he had been elected the preceding fall by a majority of over 1,600. Prior to coming to Penn Yan, Mr. Lanning was three years supervisor of Starkey, and afterward held the same office three terms in Milo. He was President Arthur's appointee to the postmastership at Penn Yan in 1882 and served four years. He has also held the office of village trustee and has been otherwise prominently identified with local and general Republican politics. His business life has been successful and he is now regarded as one of the substantial men of the county seat. He is vice-president of the Yates County National Bank. On December 11, 1836, Daniel Manning married Mary Myers, daughter of Jacob Myers, by whom he had no children. Mrs. Lanning died December 21, 1879.

Lawrence, John, a native of New Bedford, Mass., born September 6, 1753, was a ship builder, and came to Milo in 1789, settling two and one-half miles south of Penn Yan, where he carried on the mercantile business for years. He had four sons and five daughters, most of whom lived and died in this county. His oldest son, Meletiah, born October 18, 1774, was educated in New Bedford, Mass. He married, in 1810, Mary Alford, of Milo, by whom he had four children, of whom Judith A. is the widow of D. Ogden; and Sabra A. is the widow of Oliver Stark, and resides in Penn Yan.

Le Van Bender, Joseph, born near Philadelphia, Pa., August 23, 1840, was reared on a farm and at the age of sixteen commenced work in a store. In 1861 he enlisted in Company B, Fifty-second Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, and after a brief service was discharged, with the rank of second lieutenant. He re-enlisted and served as first lieutenant of Company D, One Hundred and Sixty-eighth Pennsylvania Volunteers, till the close of the war. Having studied medicine before entering the service, he now completed his course and practiced several years in Wyoming County, before coming to Penn Yan. His medical education was acquired in Baltimore, Buffalo and New York City, and his practice is after the eclectic school.

Lynn, John, was born in Brockport, N. Y., April 17, 1827. When six years of age his father died and he came to Dundee to live with his uncle Elisha, where he remained until sixteen years old. He then

learned the machinist's trade, serving four years with John E. Bliven, of Dundee. He then came to Penn Yan and worked for E. B. Jones & Co., until 1858. In 1850 he married Susan A. Southerland, by whom he had six children. Two are living, Fred H. and Jennie, wife of Charles W. Smith, of Rochester. Fred H. was born December 25, 1857, and married Alice Hatcher, of Penn Yan, by whom he has had two children, Bessie and Maithy S. He has been foreman of the Commercial Iron Works since 1885. In the fall of 1858 John Lynn went to Seneca Falls, taking charge of the pump department of Silsby & Co., for nine years. In 1865 his wife died, leaving four children. In 1866 he married Sarah E., a sister of his former wife. By her he has had three children, one of whom is living, Mamie, wife of William Webbie, of Penn Yan. In 1868 the subject of our sketch went to Pomeroy, Ohio, to take charge of a large manufacturing establishment, but on account of ill-health was obliged to return to Penn Yan in 1871, and worked for Whitaker & Brian until the fall of 1872, when he assisted in organizing the Commercial Iron Works, of which he has been superintendent since. William Sutherland, son of John, was born in New Jersey November, 27, 1812, and came to Benton when three years of age. He married Roxanna Henry, of Geneva, and had eight children. He settled in Penn Yan in 1830 and carried on shoemaking until 1888, residing at the present time with his daughter, Mrs. J. Lynn.

Mariner, Ephraim 2d, a native of Connecticut, was born May 26, 1766. His wife, Rhoda Hollister, also a native of Connecticut, was born May 11, 1767. They were married December 20, 1792, and had children as follows: Hannah, born October 13, 1793, married Dudley Brown, of Benton, and died January 4, 1864; Persis, born February 15, 1795, married John J. Smith and lives in Milwaukee, Wis., aged ninety-six years. William, born February 6, 1797, died January 24, 1867; Miles, born October 24, 1798, died July 4, 1862; Amanda, born January 5, 1801, died September 6, 1833; Polly (or Mary), born January 13, 1803, died about 1806; Fanny, born December 2, 1804, married Benjamin Dean, and Celestia, born May 12, 1807, died June 20, 1810. Miles Mariner was a butcher in Penn Yan, but he afterwards became a real estate and mill owner. Miles married first Millicent Seeley, January 22, 1826, and had these children: Ephraim, Celestia, Samuel S.,



and William. His first wife died in August, 1835, and in 1844 he married second Maria Keeler, by whom he had three children: Charles, Barnet, and George W.

McDowell, John, a native of New Jersey, in 1795 became a pioneer of the Genesee country, settling first in Jerusalem on the west branch of Lake Keuka, on land purchased from the Hornby estate. About 1803 he came to the "foot of the lake," on the Milo side. Six years later he moved further up the lake where he died in 1814. He had a family of six children, viz.: William, who married Doratha Decker and lived in Barrington, and among whose children are John and William of the same place; Sarah, who married David Hall, and lived in Wayne, Steuben County; Esther, who married Wallace Finch, and lived near Italy, Yates County; Elizabeth, who married Jonathan Taylor and lived in Barrington; Catharine, who married Henry Cronkrite and lived in Tyrone, Schuyler County, and Matthew, who married Maria Mitchell and lived in Wayne. The latter had four children: Ann Eliza, who married Samuel Hallett, and resides in Wayne; Francis M., who married Eva Sherwood, also resides in Wayne; Marie Louise, who married Gen. N. M. Crane, resides in Hornellsville; George W., who married Mary E. Spencer and resides in Penn Yan.

Meade, James, was born in Penn Yan in May, 1858, and was the son of Francis L. and Bridget Meade. At the age of fifteen James began learning the cigar making trade, and before reaching his majority he was in business for himself. His shop and store are in the Knapp House block, where five men are constantly employed. Mr. Meade was elected village treasurer at the spring meeting of 1891. His wife was Elizabeth Grady, of Branchport, whom he married in January, 1886. They have one child.

Moore, Deacon John, was born in Scoharie, N. Y., November 17, 1795, and removed to this county (then Ontario) in 1813. The same year he married Sabra, daughter of John Beal, of Jerusalem, and settled on a farm on Bluff Point. Their children were Mary A., Phebe A., Whitman, Beal, Obera, Jane E., Sabra, Genette Lydia and George D. In 1866 he married second Mrs. Margaret Dow, of St. Anthony, Minn. George D. Moore was born in this county February 13, 1838, and mar-

ried Abbie D. Dow, of Little Falls, Minn., in October, 1859. Six children have been born to them, four of whom survive: William H., John D., G. Vernon and Perlle C. Mr. Moore resides on the Beales homestead and is engaged extensively in the vinegar business. He served in the late war in Company L, 14th New York Heavy Artillery, and participated in the Battle of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg. William H. and John D. are vineyardists, each owning twenty acres of the homestead farm.

Morgan, Charles, born in New York City, when three years of age came to Penn Yan with his uncle F. H. Morgan, residing with him until ten or twelve years of age, when at his uncle's death he went to live with Susan Wells in Jerusalem, remaining five years. At the age of fifteen he entered the store of M. D. Munger, under contract to clerk for him for five years, for which he was to receive \$50 the first year, \$80 the second year, \$100 the third year, \$120 the fourth year and \$150 the fifth year. After one year Mr. Munger sold his business to Messerole & Co., and he remained with them five years. They then moved west, Mr. Morgan going with them to Red Wing in 1857, where he remained one year, then entered the hardware store of Morgan & Co., remaining about six months, after which he went to Iowa City for one year, then to Illinois remaining two years on a farm, after which he returned to Penn Yan in the fall of 1861 and entered a mercantile establishment, where he remained one year, then entered the store of N. R. Long & Co., remaining until 1886, when the firm was changed to Morgan & Perkins. Mr. Morgan, in company with H. W. Perkins, purchased the stock of N. R. & W. H. Long, continuing until 1891, when he bought Mr. Perkins's interest. On account of failing health he sold the business on April 26, to D. A. Ogden. Mr. Morgan married Ione Corey Morse, of Penn Yan.

Ogden, Hon. D. A., son of Elizabeth and Abigal (Braudt) Ogden was born at Northville, Cayuga County, N. Y., August 14, 1813. He attended the district schools of his native county until fifteen years of age, when he came to Penn Yan, living in the family of Henry Bradley two or three years and attending the Penn Yan Academy. He entered the store of Samuel Stevens as clerk, and December 18, 1834, married Judith A. Lawrence, of Milo, by whom he had thirteen children, four

surviving. Mr. Ogden studied law and was admitted to the bar. He was elected to the State legislature one term, and took an active part in raising volunteers for the late war. He was sent as Minister Resident to the Sandwich Islands by President Pierce and remained there two years; was canal appraiser under Governor Seymour, was elected canal commissioner in 1876, and was an influential member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for many years. He was a trustee of Willard Asylum from its foundation until his death. Was appointed by Cleveland one of the Prison Labor Commissioners. He died May 4, 1889. His widow still resides in Penn Yan.

Parks, Marvin, was born September 18, 1831, in Scipio, Cayuga County, N. Y., and learned the wagon maker's trade in Port Byron. He came to Penn Yan in 1852, where he opened a shop a year later and has been in business ever since. He married Mary Swarthout, of Tyrone, N. Y., and had one daughter, Lillian, wife of C. W. Morgan. He was twice elected corporation assessor.

Peckins, Myron, a son of Elipha and Martha Peckins, early settlers in this county, was born in Benton, October 21, 1829, and reared on a farm. He devoted several winters to teaching school, worked his father's farm, and afterward became its owner. By industry and perseverance he acquired a comfortable competency. In 1880 Mr. Peckins became a resident of the county seat. In 1854 he married Sarah J., daughter of Alvah Taylor, of Benton, by whom he has two children, Ion, wife of Norman Lockwood, of Penn Yan, and Byron E., who married Florence A. Henderson and now lives on the old home farm at Benton.

Potter, Jephtha A., who owns and resides in the old stone mansion built by the pioneer, Morris F. Sheppard, on Main street, is a native of Potter township and a descendant of Judge William Potter, one of the first settlers of Yates County. Jephtha's mother was Nancy Wilkinson, a relative of the Friend. At the age of twenty-one Jephtha commenced work for himself on his father's farm, but after five years he bought a place with his father and moved on it. About this time he married Sarah, daughter of Noah Davis, of Jerusalem. No children have been born to them, but they have adopted and reared four. In 1870 Mr.

Potter came to reside in Penn Yan, where his wife died in 1884. Mr. Potter is a successful man and a self-made one. He has been a member of the M. E. Church for more than forty years. In politics he is a Democrat, but has never aspired to office holding.

Pratt, Seneca L., son of H. D., was born in Milo, January 12, 1852, was educated at the public schools of Penn Yan, and married Guertha Wolcott, daughter of George W., September 27, 1882. He has two children, Carrie and Florence. In 1873 he entered his father's shoe store as clerk, continuing as such for three years, when he was taken into partnership, the firm becoming H. D. Pratt & Son. In 1880 he sold shoe business and bought interest in flour mill and commission business, firm being Andrews, Pratt & Co., and in 1883 firm changed to Russell, Fox & Co., he continuing with same until 1887. A year later he commenced the manufacture of grape baskets, and in 1891 he built a large factory at the foot of Monnell street, which was burned August 25, 1891, and rebuilt within thirty days of fire, being the largest and best equipped factory anywhere in this section.

Price, Ira, was born in Erie County, N. Y., September 30, 1858, and married Louise Goodsell, of Potter, November 12, 1884, by whom he has two children, Harry and Allen. Mr. Price is a member of the firm of E. A. Price & Co., manufacturers of wheels, spokes, etc.

Price, George W., was born in Erie County, N. Y., on August 20, 1856, and married Ella A. Green, of Canandaigua, N. Y., November 3, 1881. Mr. Price has been associated with his brother, Ira Price, in the business of manufacturing spokes, etc., since 1882. He is a member of the firm of E. A. Price & Co.

Raplee, Ira, born in Little Britain, Greene County, January 23, 1804, was the son of Joshua and Keziah Raplee, and the sixth of their eleven children. In 1805 the family came to what is now Torrey, where the parents lived and died. Ira lived on a farm until he was fifty years old, and then moved to Dundee to educate his children. In 1870 he moved to Penn Yan, where he has since resided, Mr. Raplee has never been an idle man, and even in his retirement from business life and regardless of his advanced age is still active both in body and mind. A life of industry and frugality have brought him a substantial fortune. In



1826 Mr. Raplee married Polly Smith, by whom he had four children : William R., Keziah, Sarah and Villa. His wife died April 9, 1843. April 10, 1845, he married Caroline Smith, a sister of his first wife. She died August 13, 1877. September 3, 1878, Mr. Raplee again married Mary Jane Owen, daughter of Jonathan Owen, an old and respected citizen of Milo.

Rogers, Jerome D., born in Monroe County, N. Y., June 11, 1857; was reared on a farm and at the age of fourteen began work in a dry goods store. In this employment he lived in Honeoye Falls and at Rochester—at the latter place about five years. In April, 1881, he came to Penn Yan and became a member of the enterprising firm of Roenke & Rogers. In 1883 he married Corleyn Baker, of Rochester, of which marriage two children have been born.

Rupert, Justus O., whose home is in Penn Yan village, was born in Geneva, in 1842; he came to Penn Yan about ten years ago, and entered a general nursery business. In 1880 Mr. Rupert married Elizabeth Bilsborrow, of Geneva, by whom he has one child.

Sampson, Dr. Franklin S., has been a practicing physician of Penn Yan for only three years, yet he is an exceedingly busy man in his profession. He was born at St. Albans, Me., in 1851, was educated in the common and Normal schools of that State, read medicine with Dr. W. E. Fellows, attended the Hahnemann Medical College, of Philadelphia, and was graduated in 1882. He practiced for a time at Holton, Me., and for about six years in Monroe County, N. Y. In 1888 he located in Penn Yan.

Shannon, Deacon George W., son of Daniel and Lydia (Raplee) Shannon (who moved from New Jersey to this county), was born in Starkey, December 27, 1806, one of nineteen children born to his parents. They came to this country with the earliest settlers, and took up their residence at what afterwards became known as Shannon's Corners. George received a common school education, and when sixteen years of age took charge of his father's grist-mill for three years. He then ran a boat on Seneca Lake for five years, and on the Erie Canal for two years. January 20, 1830, he married Eliza Wilkins, of Jerusalem, by whom he had one daughter, Mary A., wife of Frank L. Wentworth,

residents of Penn Yan. In 1837 he became convinced that his life ought to be lived with a view to serving God, and with this thought uppermost in his mind he united with the Baptist Church at Himrods, being baptized in Seneca Lake in February of that year. It was in connection with the Himrods Church that he so proved himself in Christian work as to be ordained a deacon in 1840. In April, 1844, he bought a farm in Benton and moved there, and here he resided for two years. He then sold it and bought a farm in Milo, just out of the village of Penn Yan, and connected himself with the Baptist Church of that place. His wife died May 15, 1852, and he married, second, February 12, 1853, Mary E. Gould, by whom he had one daughter, Lillie, wife of L. J. Sprague. His second wife died May 20, 1874, and he married, third, Fannie Osborn, who survives him. In 1875 he sold his farm at war prices and moved to Penn Yan, where he resided up to the time of his death. During the past forty seven years Deacon Shannon has identified himself with every good work. On Thursday, December 24, at 8 o'clock A. M., he departed this life. His funeral services were held in the Baptist Church on Sunday, December 27, 1891, which was the eighty-fifth anniversary of his birth.

Shearman, Oliver G., a native of Milo, was born August 7, 1834. His father, George Shearman, was of Irish nativity, while his mother, Rebecca, daughter of David Wagener, was born in the city of Philadelphia. Oliver G. was the eleventh of their twelve children. He lived on a farm until past twenty-one years of age. His early education was acquired in the common schools. In 1857 he came to Penn Yan and engaged in the grain business, and May 1, 1860, the present firm of Shearman & Lewis, grain dealers, was formed. Prior to 1860 Mr. Shearman's brother was his partner. In 1882 the Yates County Malt House was erected, and the malting house of O. G. Shearman & Co., composed of Mr. Shearman, John Lewis, E. C. Dwelle and G. R. Youngs was formed. In 1888 Mr. Youngs retired, since which time the other members of the firm have conducted the business. Oliver G. Shearman is not unknown in local Democratic circles. In 1862 he was elected town clerk of Milo, and moved the office to Penn Yan. In 1868 he was elected trustee of the village and two or three years later was made president of the board, holding that office two years. In 1875

he was elected county treasurer by a majority of 139 ; in 1887 he was the Democratic candidate for the Assembly, but was defeated by a small majority, the normal Republican majority of Yates County being over 1,200. He now holds the office of trustee of "the Willard Hospital for the Insane," having been appointed to that office by David B. Hill. Outside of politics Mr. Shearman has been identified with a number of measures, each of which had for its end the substantial welfare of Penn Yan. To him and his associates was due the honor of bringing about the railroad leading from Dresden to Lake Keuka, being president of the company that procured the right of way. Many other public improvements might be recalled, but space forbids.

Sprague, James S., a native of Milo, was born in May, 1834, the son and third child of the four children of Jeremiah and Priscilla (Ferguson) Sprague. His father was a tailor at Milo Center, but James was brought up to farm work. He lived at home until reaching his thirty-second year, when he married. He still worked the home farm until his father died. Seven years ago Mr. Sprague bought his present farm on the East road. He is one of Milo's successful farmers. His wife was Lucy Jane, daughter of Henry Hunt, a highly respected citizen of Milo. One child only has been born to them, Delos E., at present a student at Cornell.

Steelman, Franklin W., known to the local mercantile trade for about ten or twelve years, was first employed here in the store of H. W. Perkins. In 1886 he went into business with Horatio Hazen, a partnership that continued until about two years ago. Mr. Steelman was born in New Jersey in 1843, and at the age of nineteen he became clerk in a grocery store in Jersey City. Afterwards he found similar employment in New York city. His place of business in Penn Yan is prominently located on Main street, and his stock in trade is carefully selected and complete.

Swarthout, Lewis, born in Tyrone, Steuben County, N. Y., August 17, 1827, was the son, and the seventh of the ten children, of Henry and Polly Swarthout. In 1849 Henry Swarthout and family moved to Milo, and located on the farm now owned by Lewis. There he died in 1864, followed by his wife, four years later. Lewis lived in Tyrone

until 1869, when upon the death of his mother, he came to Milo. This is known as the "old Fort farm," an account of which somewhat peculiar name will be found in the historical department of this volume. November 16, 1848, Mr. Swarthout and Louisa Hallock were married. They have two children, Frank B. and Martha J. In Milo Lewis Swarthout is known as an industrious and successful farmer. He is not active in town affairs, yet has an interest in all that pertains to its welfare. The family are members of the Second Milo Baptist Church, of which Frank B. Swarthout is clerk.

Wagener, Lucius P., son of George, grandson of Abram, and great-grandson of David Wagener, attended the common schools and Penn Yan Academy, and finished his education at Eastman's Business College, in Rochester, with his brother. He bought the grocery stock of Mr. Thompson, and conducted a partnership business for five or six years, when Lucius P. became sole proprietor. Mr. Wagener married Mary E., daughter of J. C. Shannon, of Starkey. He is a Democrat in politics. He was deputy sheriff during his father's incumbency of the sheriff's office of Yates County.

Watrous, Thomas S., a native of Potter County, Pa., located in Penn Yan in 1885, and was employed by George Beebe in his carriage factory for five years. In 1890 he opened a shop on Stark avenue, where he engaged in the manufacture of the Watrous road carts, which he invented in 1890-91. He manufactures about 200 a year of carts and wagons. They are also manufactured in different parts of the State, netting him a royalty of over \$50 a month.

Weare, Samuel C., born near Seneca Lake, N. Y., January 20, 1813, died in Penn Yan in September, 1891. During his youth Mr. Weare was apprenticed to a country merchant in which employment he first came to Penn Yan. Being afflicted with ague he went to Potter Center, but soon returned to the county seat. In 1836 he had charge of a dry goods store at Rushville, where he remained two years. He was then employed in various places for some years, but returned to Penn Yan where he was employed by Ketchum & Sharp, succeeding, however, the junior member of that firm about 1850. For three years Mr. Weare was a merchant, and then was engaged in lumbering in Canada,



continuing thus ten years. Again in 1862 he came to Penn Yan and started in the grocery business, but soon sold out and returned to lumbering for three more years. He bought a farm in Benton which he soon sold and moved to Albany to retire from active business. Later he returned to Benton but left again to superintend the building of docks, roads and tracks at Buffalo. After this he went again into lumbering, this time at Bay City, Mich., in partnership with his son-in-law. Eight years later he returned to Penn Yan. About 1840 Mr. Weare married Martha W., daughter of Israel Arnold, by whom he had two children. His wife died in 1874. In 1879 he married Sarah A. Pollock, who survives him.

Whittaker, Jonathan (son of William Harlow), was born August 15, 1841, and was educated at the common schools. He engaged until 1866 in farming, when he came to Penn Yan and formed a partnership with his uncle, A. F. Whittaker, carrying on a foundry and machine shop, which was burned April 30, 1872. He formed a connection with the Commercial Iron works Co., of which he was secretary and treasurer. Since 1884 he has been president of the company. He married Eliza Woolley, of Jamaica, L. I., by whom he had three children, Clarence A., Cornelia A., and Maud E. His wife died May 8, 1874. He married, second, Alida M. Wyckoff, of Penn Yan, in 1884, by whom he had three children, Ruth M., Janet and Ralph T. (deceased).

Whitfield, William H., was born in New Jersey and became a resident of this county soon after the close of the civil war. He was in the service as a member of Company G., 149th New York Volunteers, having enlisted in August, 1862, at Syracuse, and serving about three years. On first coming to Penn Yan Mr. Whitfield worked at his trade of carriage trimming, but afterward became associated in business with George Beebe. In the year 1884 the firm of Whitfield & McCormick was formed, and has since pursued a successful business. Reference to the manufactures of the firm is made in the chapter devoted to Penn Yan. In 1868 Mr. Whitfield married Hattie Wheeler, widowed daughter of John and Huldah Underdonk. Two children have been born to them.

Youngs, Isaiah, a farmer, came to Milo from Essex County, N. J., in 1802, and had six children: Stephen, George, Benjamin, Nancy,

Elizabeth and Polly. George was thirteen years old when his father came to Milo. He married Rebecca Pitney, by whom he had six children, the three surviving being George R., Isaiah and Phebe. George R., born November 28, 1871, was educated at Yates County Academy at Penn Yan, and when eighteen years of age commenced teaching. He taught several terms, and in 1834 entered the store of Wheeler & Van Rensselear, remaining with them three years. January 1, 1841, he was appointed deputy county clerk, and held that position six years. For several years following he was a broker and speculator, and in 1854 went to Chicago and opened a retail lumber yard, remaining there two years. In 1855 he built the first malt house ever built in Penn Yan. He carried on that business for ten years with D. W. Streetor and others, the last five years the firm name being George R. Youngs & Co. In 1867 he sold out to Tuttle Brothers; he then carried on a private banking business for several years. Since 1870 he has been a practical civil engineer and surveyor. He made the preliminary survey for the New York and Penn Yan Railroad Co., from Penn Yan to Dresden, and the present Fall Brook Company, made most of the survey for their road in 1862, issued "shin plasters" for the use of Penn Yan, kept the meteorological volunteer survey for the government, and for the past fifteen years has settled more estates than any one man in town. January 1, 1866 he was appointed agent and warden for Sing Sing Prison, which he held over one year. Has given considerable attention to the searching of titles and making loans on real estate since 1872, and has been a practical botanist. He has a good herbarium. He was elected a member of the board of education, having held that position most of the time since 1877. In 1848 he married Philana Arnold, of Italy, Yates County.

## TOWN OF BENTON.

Arnold, Israel Harrison, was born in Jerusalem December 3, 1816. His wife, Susan Ann Cleaveland, was born December 19, 1816. They were married December 26, 1841. Their children were Israel Carlton, born August 6, 1843, died April 13, 1888; John Cleaveland, born September 15, 1855, died January 9, 1865; and George Benjamin, born

December 24, 1848, married Mary Lloyd, December 9, 1873. Israel H. Arnold was well known in Yates County as a surveyor, a business man, and a friend and parent of exceptional worth. His business life was successful, and at his death, May 25, 1881, he left a good estate. He came to Benton in October, 1843. His wife died February 28, 1861. George Benjamin Arnold, youngest son of Israel H., is the owner and occupant of the Benton home property on which he has an extensive nursery. His children are Susan Ann, Maud Lillian, George B., jr., and Lloyd Carlton.

Barden, George Riggs, son of George and Dolly (Witter) Barden, was born in Benton August 17, 1812. His father was poor, and as George R. was one of the oldest of thirteen children, he was early put to work on the farm. At the age of twenty-five, he married (in 1837), and started for himself on the farm on which he now lives and of which he is the owner. His wife was Elmira Sutherland, and their children were Ashley W., Lucy A., Jennie E. and Theda H. Mrs. Barden died March 17, 1863, and January 31, 1865, Mr. Barton married Jane Wilkinson. He is one of the pioneer Republicans of Yates County, being a delegate to the first county convention of that party. In 1859 he was elected to the Assembly. He and his family are members of the Baptist Church, of which society he was one of the trustees for twelve years. He is one of the deacons at the present time and a member of the pulpit committee.

Barden, Llewellyn J., the present school commissioner of Yates County, born in Benton, April 15, 1853, is the son of Martin W. and Margaret E. Barden, and the second of their ten children. He was educated in the common schools and at the Penn Yan and Canandaigua Academies. Later he attended a business college at Rochester. Commencing at the age of eighteen, Mr. Barden taught school for four or five years, one year being at the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, where in 1874 he married Jennie E., daughter of George R. Barden of Benton. They have had five children, four of whom are living. For some years Mr. Barden lived at New Haven, Conn., being employed as book-keeper. In 1890 he was elected county school commissioner.

Becker, Alfred S., was born in Columbia County, N. Y., in 1838, the son of David L. and Sarah Becker. The family came to Benton about

1849 and located where Alfred now resides. At that time David L. Becker was married to his second wife. Alfred was a child by the first marriage. David married a third wife, and died in Penn Yan in 1875. At the age of twenty-one Alfred began working the farm on shares. In 1863 he married Kate, daughter of William Best, of Benton, by whom he had two children, Sarah, wife of Charles F. Walker, and Edgar L. Kate (Best) Becker, wife of Alfred, died, and four years later Alfred married Anna Durry, of Jerusalem. Two children have been born to the second marriage, Alfred D. and Ralph C. Alfred S. Becker is one of Benton's substantial farmers. He has 125 acres, twelve of which are in vineyard, and six in fruit and berries.

Dorman, James, born in Seneca, Jefferson County, in 1824, was the son of Alanson and Eleanor Dorman, and the seventh of their thirteen children. He was reared on a farm, and at the age of twenty-one he started out to make his own way in life. He went west to Wisconsin and Iowa, locating in the latter State, but he soon returned and went to work by the month. In 1864 he came to Benton and bought the old Foster Watson farm, where he has since resided. On January 13, 1859, Mr. Dorman married Maria, daughter of Charles Ayres of Benton. They have two children, Mary J. and Dennie M., both living at home.

Earl, Albert, born in Benton, November 6, 1839, was the fourth of seven children born to Arthur and Sybil (Conklin) Earl, both highly respected residents of Benton, and both representing an element of pioneership in the town. Arthur Earl was a farmer and Albert was brought up to farm work. In 1850 his father bought the place on which Albert now lives. The latter owns 130 acres near Seneca Lake.

Earl, Edwin L., son of the late Jephtha Earl, was born in Benton, N. Y., January 10, 1838. He was reared on the farm and is now the owner of 175 acres of excellent land. At the age of thirty-one he married Caroline Coffin, by whom he has had five children: George Jephtha, Henry Clay, Charles, Eliza and Edwin L., jr. Mr. Earl is a Democrat in politics, but takes no active part in town or county affairs. He has no strong religious preferences, but inclines towards Universalism.

Edmonds, Aaron, born in Fairfield County, Conn. In 1797 he married Harriet Folliott and became a resident of Benton in 1834. His family



is as follows: Ann Maria, Sarah, Robert S., and Harriet E. (Last mentioned was born in this town). Robert S. Edmonds was born April 5, 1830. His life has been devoted to the farm. In 1855 he married Mary, daughter of David Buell, by whom he had one child, Lillie, wife of John R. Gardner, of Potter. Mary died in 1860. In 1863 Mr. Edmonds married Caroline, daughter of Stephen Seaman, of Saratoga County. One child, Robert Lee Edmonds, has been born to them.

Gage, Samuel B., son of Samuel G. and Martha (Cole) Gage, was born in Benton November 23, 1834. The old Gage farm was formerly known as the Gillette place, and came to Samuel B. upon the father's death. It contains about 150 acres. Mr. Gage married, in 1853, Lois Ann Bunnett, of Benton, by whom he had three children, S. Granger, Ida and Arthur. Mrs. Gage died in 1888. Mr. Gage is one of the leading Republicans of Benton. For two terms he had the office of supervisor. Once he was the nominee of his party for sheriff but was defeated. In 1890 he held the office of road commissioner.

Gristock, Thomas, born in Somersetshire, England, March 1, 1835, came to the United States at the age of twenty years, residing for a short time in Cayuga County and then coming to Benton, Yates County, where he has since lived. In 1865 he bought the Remer farm of 100 acres, in Benton near Penn Yan, on which he has some of the best farm buildings in the township. Mr. Gristock is generous and public spirited. His wife was Sarah Hurford, an English lady, by whom he has had three children: Thomas J., now living in Michigan; Ella, wife of Frank Kipp, of Torrey; and Frederick W., who assists his father on the farm.

Hurford, Henry, was born in Somersetshire, England, in 1832, the son of James and Lydia Hurford. Henry came to the United States in 1853, when for several months he worked out by the month in Penn Yan and elsewhere. In 1866 he bought the John Lapham fifty-acre farm, where he now resides. In 1853 Mr. Hurford married Eliza Gristock, by whom he has two children. Henry Hurford takes an active interest in the affairs of his town. He is a firm Republican and is now serving his third term as assessor.

Hurford, William, was born in Somerset, England, in December, 1845, the youngest of nine children of James and Lydia Hurford.

He came to this country in 1853 and began work as a laborer. In 1858 he bought the Lemuel Sprague farm of eighty acres, near Spencer's Corners in Benton, and this he has increased to 100 acres. In 1861 Mr. Hurford married Julia A. Holden, of Penn Yan, by which marriage these children have been born: Charles, Harry W., Bradley C. and Perley. William Hurford has been a successful farmer and a generous provider for his family. He has started his sons in business.

Hyatt, Harrison, was born in Milo, March 22, 1814, the son of James and Betsey Hyatt of that town. At the age of twenty-six Harrison started out to work by the month, continuing for five years, when he bought the farm in Benton where he now resides. He has been twice married, his first wife being Hannah Schofield, who died January 3, 1887. He married second Eliza Schofield in October of the same year.

Lewis, Thomas J., was born in Cayuga County, N. Y., April 27, 1811. When two years of age his father, Joseph C., moved to Starkey, and he (Thomas) remained there until 1840, when he came to Benton. In 1834 he married Sarah A. Ayers, of Starkey, by whom he had five children. He died May 28, 1882, and his wife October 17, 1890. Charles G., the oldest son, was born October 5, 1835. On December 4, 1866, he married Emma J. Morgan, by whom he has two children, Hattie A. and George W. His wife died February 7, 1877. Mr. Lewis is a farmer. May 16, 1861, he enlisted in Co. F, Twenty-third New York Infantry and served ten months, being discharged March 1, 1862, for disability. He re-enlisted August 10, 1863, and was mustered out at Petersburg, Va., June 27, 1865.

Lewis, Thomas J., a native of Cayuga County, came to Starkey in 1812, and to Benton in 1840. His wife, whom he married in Starkey, was Sally Ann Ayers, and their children were Charles G., Agnes A., Wilson A., Eli and Frank E. Thomas J. died in May, 1882, and his wife in October, 1890. Charles G., Wilson A. and Eli served in the war of 1861-65. Wilson A. died in Knoxville, Tenn., in the army. Eli was born in October, 1840. He was educated in the common schools and in Penn Yan and Dundee Academies. Eli Lewis enlisted at Washington, D. C., in 1863 in an engineer corps. After two months

he came home and in the fall re-enlisted in Co. H, Fifty-eighth New York Volunteers, Infantry. He was sergeant, and was mustered out at the end of his term of service. December 24, 1873, he married Sarah C., daughter of Joshua Washburn, Gorham, Ontario County. He is a farmer by occupation and is living on the farm he bought in 1873.

Mallory, Almon C., for a quarter of a century devoted his life to ministerial work in Benton. He was born in Cornwall, Litchfield County, Conn., and was ordained as minister of the Baptist Church on September 30, 1840. During his forty-five years in the ministry he was pastor of but three churches, eleven years at Wayne, Steuben County, twenty-four years at Benton Center, and ten years at Covert, Seneca County. He died in Benton, September 17, 1888. His children were Sara H., who became the wife of James S. Williams, and died in 1867; and Bradley T., a farmer and insurance agent of Benton Center.

Mariner, Buel, born in Connecticut January 6, 1775, died in Benton, N. Y., January 6, 1852. His wife, Esther Lord, born August 10, 1784, died September 11, 1875. They were married in Connecticut and had children as follows: John, born June 20, 1808, died in Illinois; Jewett, born August 12, 1811, died in Jerusalem, N. Y.; Eliphalet, born August 20, 1813, died in Illinois; Orin, born December 28, 1816, lives in Illinois; Henry, born March 10, 1818, resides in Illinois; Myron, born July 7, 1810, resides in Bloomfield, Ontario County; Jay Lord, born September 29, 1822, died in Milo in 1849; and Homer, born March 1, 1825. Buel Mariner came to Yates County about 1820, and bought 260 acres. He was one of Benton's most successful farmers. Homer Mariner, youngest of the children of Buel Mariner, is recognized as a leading farmer and influential citizen of Benton. He first married in September, 1849, Caroline Sutherland, who died October 26, 1879. Their children were Eva, Floyd A., Jay E., Esther L. and Lincoln. His second wife was Cornelia Bristol, widow of John Gray, a former resident of Cortland County, and whom Mr. Mariner married May 18, 1881.

Mead, Joshua, the pioneer of the Mead family in Benton, came from Putnam County, N. Y., and located on Pleasant Ridge in 1820, where he and his wife died, both in 1866. Their children were Gilbert,

Elizabeth, Jane, Joseph, William, Mary and John. Gilbert Mead, born November 25, 1811, was a prominent farmer and stock dealer. January 2, 1834, he married Catharine Barnes, by whom he had two children, Joshua and George W. The latter died in May, 1891. Joshua Mead was born January 3, 1835, and has always lived in Benton. February 29, 1860, he married Isabella Goundry, of Milo, and to them six children have been born: Catharine R., Georgiana, Mary R., Byron G., Frank H. and Ada Belle. Joshua Mead commenced business life poor; he is now a comfortable farmer, having 175 acres of good land.

Merrifield, John, came to Benton from Columbia County, N. Y., in 1823, and settled in the west part of the town. He resided in the county until 1844, when he removed to Michigan, where he died in 1851. He had a family of eleven children, all of whom are living. The oldest son, John, was born September 10, 1809, and when thirteen years of age came to this county with his parents, where he has always resided. He is a farmer and owned at one time 400 acres of land. He was supervisor of Benton five years, and was several years excise commissioner. He married Mary Crank, of Columbia County, by whom he had four children, only one of whom now lives, John Wesley, born December 23, 1832. He married Elvira Crosby, and has two children, Sarah E. and John S. He is an apiarist and has 100 colonies.

Peckins, Charles R. (son of Elipha), born February 28, 1832, in Benton, was educated at the common schools of Benton and select schools of Penn Yan. When twenty years of age he commenced dealing in agricultural implements, which business he carried on twenty-five years. He was in company with John S. Sheppard under the firm name of Sheppard & Peckins six years in Penn Yan, then returned to the farm and is now engaged in farming, and has been justice of the peace since 1882. He married Ella A., daughter of Seth B. Briggs, in 1861. They have three children; Burnett, Martha J., and Villa B. Elipha Peckins was born in Massachusetts, and when a small boy he came to Benton with his parents. They had a family of sixteen children. He bought a farm and carried on carpentering and joining. He died in 1888 aged ninety-four years. Of his four children three are living.

Platman, John H., was born in February, 1827. His father was Joseph Platman, and his mother Sarah (Alabaster) Platman, both of



English birth. The family came to Geneva in 1837, and a few months later to Benton. John H. Platman has been twice married. His first wife was Mary M. C. Ward, by whom he has one child, Alice M., wife of David M. Scott. In 1854 Mrs. Platman died, and two years later Mr. Platman married Catharine Disbrew by whom these children have been born: Josephine E., Elmer E., Samuel E. and George H. George H. died in 1871.

Remer, William T., was born in Benton, May 15, 1824, the son of Aaron and Phebe Remer, who are elsewhere mentioned in this work. Although his career has been devoted to the farm, Mr. Remer has nevertheless been much in public life. He was educated in the district schools and attended the Albany Academy. He was one of the organizers of the Republican Party in Yates County, and has ever since been identified with its fortunes. Commencing in 1859 he served three years as sheriff of the county. In 1863 he was appointed provost-marshal for this congressional district, and held that position to the end of the war. He has also been supervisor of the town of Benton. In 1849 Mr. Remer married Mary H., daughter of Anthony Trimmer, of Benton. Four children have been born to them, three of whom are living.

Scofield, Ebenezer P., whose comfortable residence and excellent farm are in the northwest part of Benton, was born where he now lives, on September 1, 1822. He was the son of William and Patience Scofield, and the fifth of their seven children. The home farm of his father came to Ebenezer by descent. He was supervisor of Benton for two years and is a prominent member of the M. E. Church at the Center. June 21, 1855, Mr. Scofield married Elizabeth Stokoe, by whom he had five children, viz.: Frances Jane, wife of Russell Chapman; Clarence W., of Benton; Charles D., of Benton; and John S. and Mary Edith, who live at home.

Scofield, William, a native of Connecticut, came to Benton, Yates County, N. Y., shortly after the year 1800 and engaged in farming. He had seven children, of whom Hiram, the oldest, was born in Benton, April 13, 1813, and was married. He had two children, Mary E. and Emily J., both deceased. Mrs. Scofield was a daughter of Squire Nash, one of the first settlers, and a prominent citizen in Steuben County. He

was a supervisor and a justice of the peace for several years. Mrs. Patchin, of Benton, an aunt of Mrs. Scofield, is the grandmother of Judge Patchin, of Detroit, Mich. Hiram Scofield has always been engaged in farming. Both he and his wife have been active members of the M. E. Church for over fifty years. He has also served as class leader and steward.

Shaw, Guy, born in Barrington, December 4, 1820, was the son of Jeremiah and Betsey Shaw of that town. At the age of twenty-one Guy left the home farm to make his own way in life. He attended school at Canandaigua two years, preparing himself for teaching, and thereafter he taught school eight winter terms. His summer months were spent on farms. In 1843 his father died, the family then residing in Ontario County. In 1848 Guy bought the Thomas Lee farm in Benton. Here Mr. Shaw has since lived, with the exception of four years. In 1843 he married Laura L. Pierce, by whom he has three children. Guy Shaw is a factor in Yates County politics. He was an original Free Soiler, but became a Republican on the organization of that party. In 1863 he represented the county in the Assembly. For the last twenty years Mr. Shaw has acted independent of politics and has inclined to the Farmers' Alliance. Both himself and wife are members of the M. E. Church, he having been formerly one of its trustees.

Spencer, George W., of Benton, who was born and died in the town, was one of its foremost citizens. He married Eliza M. Wheeler, of Potter, February 11, 1852. They had one child, Frank E. Spencer, now a resident and successful business man of Benton. Mrs. Spencer died April 2, 1860, and October 23, 1862, Mr. Spencer married Mary E. Wheeler, a sister to his first wife. One child, Charles P. Spencer, was born of this marriage. George W. Spencer died October 19, 1878. Frank E. Spencer, born August 23, 1855, on February 28, 1882, married Fannie V., daughter of Joseph R. and Frances M. Bell, of Dundee. They have one child, George Harold. Mr. Spencer is a successful fruit grower. His farm has sixty-six acres of good land, twenty-five acres of which are in fruit.

Sprague, Daniel, born in Jerusalem, June 14, 1828, was the son of Robert and Melinda Sprague. His parents were poor and Daniel was

early obliged to go out to work. At twenty-two he married and commenced to work on shares the farm in Benton on which he now resides and owns. Thus it will be seen that Mr. Sprague's business life has been more than reasonably successful. He is regarded as one of Benton's substantial men. In 1849 Mr. Sprague married Arabella, daughter of Elipha Peckins, a respected resident of Benton. Three children were born of this marriage, Charles, James A., and Edward. Mrs. Sprague died in May, 1886.

Stanton, Benjamin, was born in Gorham, Ontario County, February 24, 1798. April 20, 1820, he married Polly, daughter of Benjamin Dean, born March 10, 1800. They settled in the north part of the town. Their three children were Martha E., George B., and Mary J. None of them is now living. Benjamin was an extensive farmer. He died in 1846 and his wife June 18, 1879.

Lloyd, Charles, was born in Cheshire, England, in 1820. About 1837 he came to America and located in the town of Benton, where he engaged in farming. November 12, 1857, he married Emily Stanton Holmes, and they had one child, Mary E., who resides here. Mr. Lloyd died October 9, 1879, and his wife in 1883. Norman Holmes, son of Joshua, was born in 1820. He married Norah A. Stanton, daughter of Benjamin Stanton and had one child, Harriet E. He died January 20, 1853.

Swarthout, Heman Chapman, one of Benton's representative farmers, born in Barrington, September 21, 1842, was the youngest of the children of George F. and Roena Swarthout. At the age of seventeen Heman started out for himself and for several years migrated from one place to another, living most of that time in Ohio and New York. In 1876 after his mother's death he bought the farm in Benton he now occupies. It embraces over 100 acres and is in a good state of cultivation. In 1866 Mr. Swarthout married Eliza Jane Barber, by whom he had two children, both dying in infancy. His wife died in 1885 and in February, 1887, he married Sarah A. Prichard, of Benton.

Tallmadge, Milo, was born in Barkhamsted, Litchfield County, Conn., and became a resident of Benton, N. Y., in 1865. He purchased first, a farm near William T. Remer's, but in 1872 he bought his present

place. The children in Mr. Tallmadge's family are: Ellen, widow of the late Capt. Martin S. Hicks; Sarah, wife of Henry S. Rood, of Benton, and Harvey C., who now manages the farm.

Taylor, James W., born in Benton, May 17, 1844, was the youngest of three children born to Alva and Ardalissa Taylor. James was reared on a farm and learned the trade of wagon-making and blacksmithing. In 1885 he built the shops at Benton Center, where is now his residence and place of business. In 1870 Mr. Taylor married Harriet, daughter of Elnathan R. Hunt. They have no children.

Underwood, Horace, one of the most widely acquainted men of Benton, was born in Jerusalem, September 21, 1825. When Horace was seven years old the family moved to Potter, and when about sixteen he started out to work by the month, continuing so for about five years. He then bought a farm near Rushville, and followed that with the ownership of a number of others. He was of a speculative turn of mind, and an excellent judge of property, both in value and productiveness. In 1866 he moved to Bellona and afterwards lived three years in Penn Yan, that his children might have the advantages of the village schools. During this time Mr. Underwood was keeper in Auburn and Sing Sing prisons. In 1870 he returned to Benton and in 1871 came to his present farm of 230 acres. In 1849 he married Rachel R. Warner, of Potter, by whom he has had four children, two only of whom are now living. In Potter Mr. Underwood was assessor nine years and four years justice of the peace. In Benton he has been assessor one and supervisor two terms. During the war he was enrolling officer in the provost-marshal's office. Mr. Underwood is a Republican.

Waldron, James, a native of Jersey City, N. J., learned the trade of coach-making and came to Geneva, N. Y., when a young man. Here he married in 1824, Jane, daughter of James Rice, a Revolutionary veteran. In 1833 they moved to Dresden and lived there for five years. He then moved to Michigan, but owing to the malarious character of that country he returned to Yates County and purchased what was called the Elder Goff farm where he lived until his death, which occurred October 3, 1883. His wife died April 17, 1872. Their children were Helen, John, Elizabeth, Henry, Edwin and Anna. Helen died March



22, 1837, aged twelve years. John died December 5, 1846, aged nineteen years. Elizabeth married Henry Coon and died in Washington, D. C., March 21, 1872. Henry, a physician, married Emma Byrnes, in Washington, located in Barnesville, Md., where he was stricken with consumption and returned to Benton, where he died August 2, 1861. One child, Anna, survives him. Edwin married Esther Crosby, of Benton, October 16, 1861, and resides on the homestead. He is a breeder of thoroughbred Jersey cattle and is a thorough, practical farmer. Anna married James Williams. They reside in Orleans County, N. Y.

#### TOWN OF STARKEY.

Andrews, John T., a son of Ichabod and Lola T. Andrews, is a native of Greene County, N. Y., born May 29, 1803. He was reared on a farm, received a business education in the common schools of the old town of Reading. In 1828 he engaged in the mercantile business, at Reading, continuing until 1832, when he was elected sheriff of this county in which capacity he served three years. In 1835 he was elected a member of Congress, serving one term with distinction and honor. At the close of his Congressional term he again turned his attention to the mercantile business, forming a partnership with Martin & Vosburg at Dundee. They carried on a successful business for several years. Mr. Andrews married in Steuben County, Miss Ann Eliza Andrews, daughter of Amherst Andrews, in 1831. One daughter was born to this union, who died in infancy. Mrs. Andrews died in 1877. Mr. Andrews is one of Dundee's most prominent and enterprising citizens.

Archer, James M., born in Bradford, England, June 27, 1836, came to America in 1842 with his parents, Thomas and Sarah, who settled in Starkey, where they resided until their death. James M. was educated at the Starkey Seminary, and in 1860 married Mary Hathaway. Their only child, Fred, born July 23, 1862, married Florence Allen, of New York City, where he resides, being in the employ of the United States Express Company. James M., in 1857 entered the store of C. W. Barnes of Rock Stream, as clerk, remained until 1862, when he enlisted in the 14th New York Heavy Artillery, and was sergeant, quartermaster-sergeant, second lieutenant, first lieutenant, and was mustered

out as adjutant at the close of the war. Returning to Rock Stream he entered the store of his old employer as clerk, remaining there until 1876. He then engaged as traveling salesman for four years, then opened a store at Rock Stream, where he now resides. He was elected justice of the peace in 1889. He is a Republican, and takes an active interest in political affairs.

Barnes, Charles W., an extensive business man, and a highly respected citizen, was born January 1, 1823, and died in Rock Stream within a quarter of a mile of the place of his birth, on February 5, 1884. His father, Enos, was born in Litchfield, Conn., and his mother in Lansingburg, N. Y. At the age of sixteen Enos Barnes went Lunenburg, Va., where he remained eight years, studying medicine and commencing practice as a physician. He served as a surgeon in the war of 1812, and afterward returned to the north. June 22, 1814, he married Miss Rebecca Wicks. They came from Hyde Park to what is now Rock Stream, in 1815, the first of the following eight children having been born previous to their removal: Dr. Harry R. Barnes, of Rock Stream; Woodruff L., who died in Brooklyn; Morris T., who died in Watkins, and whose two daughters, Mrs. A. C. Pike, and Mrs. R. H. Canfield, and their mother, Mrs. M. S. Phinney, now reside in Corning, N. Y.; Delia M., who married Dr. J. S. Stevens, of Penn Yan, and Charles W.; Edmund F., who died at Folly Island, S. C., during the rebellion; Emma H., who became the wife of Julius Bancroft and died in New Madrid, Mo.; and Hattie N., wife of Mr. Otis Whitney, of Oswego, Kan. Dr. Enos Barnes was twice married, and two children were born of the second union, Enos W. Barnes, editor of the *Allegany County Reporter*, who died at Wellsville, N. Y., in 1888, and Rebecca, wife of Rev. J. T. Otis, of La Preston, Dak. Charles W. Barnes, after attending the Penn Yan Academy, at the age of fifteen became a clerk in the store then kept by Alonzo Simmons at Rock Stream. He remained there two years and then entered the employ of L. G. Townsend, at what was then called Big Stream Point, now called Glenora, where he remained until going into business for himself, which was nine months previous to his attaining his majority. April 18, 1853, he married Mary S., daughter of Alonzo Simmons. Two children were born to them: Delia M., wife of John D. Goundrey, and Alonzo S. Mr. Barnes

was a member of the Masonic order, but not of any religious society. He gave freely for charitable purposes, and for years gave liberally to the Presbyterian Church of Rock Stream. At two periods of his life partners were associated with him in business, Mr. Sharp for a term of years, and subsequently his brother-in law, George Simmons. During his long and prosperous business career his dealings were ever honorable and his relations with acquaintances were such that only death could sunder the bonds of friendship formed. Alonzo S. Barnes was born October 22, 1860, and educated at Starkey Seminary and Cook Academy, and in 1888 married Erma L. Miles. He succeeded his father in the mercantile business at Rock Stream.

Baskin, Lyman J., farmer and attorney at law, is a native of Yates County, born June 16, 1853. He is a son of William R. Baskin, and grandson of William Baskin, who settled here at a very early day. The latter was born about 1777 and died January 7, 1866. The father of Lyman J., was born February 14, 1817, a farmer and stock dealer. He married Eliza A. Graves, a native of Ireland, by whom he had six children, five surviving in order of birth, Lyman J., Herman C., Estella A., Winifred E. and Mabel A., all of whom received their education at Starkey Seminary. The mother was a very earnest churchwoman. The children are all Episcopalians, as also is the family of Lyman J. In 1872-73-74, the latter having read law with Hart & Tomlinson, attorneys at law at Elmira, for one year attended the law department of Michigan University, Ann Arbor, Mich., receiving the degree of LL.B. in 1874. He located at Jackson, Mich., where he had a large and paying practice, while there. In 1876 he was elected Court Commissioner of Jackson County on the Democratic ticket, by about 1,000 majority, the highest vote accorded to any Democrat on the ticket in that usually Republican county. June 7, 1877, his father, William R. Baskin, died, and the subject of this sketch returned to his old home in Yates County, resigning the office of court commissioner to which he had been previously elected, not having served out the official term. Since that time Mr. Baskin has traveled through the greater portion of the west, and has been engaged in speculations in the west, where he now has investments. He has also practiced law more or less in Yates and Schuyler Counties, and is particularly interested in grape growing, giving it his personal attention.

His law and business office is at Watkins, N. Y., where he also has valuable real estate interests. In June, 1878, he married Miss Ella Ingalls, of Watkins, N. Y., by whom he has one daughter, born November 18, 1879. The old homestead, comprising 200 acres, one-half mile north of Starkey Station, is operated by Lyman J. Baskin, his brother and sisters, who, excepting the elder, are also engaged in breeding standard bred trotters in connection with farming and grape growing. Lyman J. is in politics a zealous, though conservative Democrat, a man of positive and strong convictions, and a Knight of Pythias.

Captain Joseph Bellis, a native of Pennsylvania, came to Barrington about 1816, and was a captain in the War of 1812. He was a cooper by trade and carried on the business for many years, at Barrington and Eddytown. He married Sarah Fox, of Easton, Pa., and they had seven children, three of whom survive, Charles, who resides in Starkey; J. Lewis, who resides at Berlin, Wis.; and George F., who was born at Barrington, April 21, 1829. He married Mary J. Young, of Central Square, Oswego County, N. Y., a direct descendant of Charles Pelton, of Ithaca, N. Y. They have three children, Louille, Mark G., and Newman. In 1871 he settled in Warsaw, Wis., he is owner and builder of three blocks there, besides two hotels, of which he is also the proprietor, The Arlington and Hotel Bellis.

Benedict, Jewett, a farmer and fruit grower of Starkey, and a native of Steuben County, N. Y., born June 19, 1843, is a son of Lewis and Catherine (Hendricks) Benedict, both natives of Sullivan County, N. Y. The father was born in 1805. Of their nine children four survive: Mary J., wife of Harrison Horton; Harriet M., widow of Marcus J. Hilton, of Bradford County, Pa; Delia M., wife of J. M. Shoemaker. The father learned the blacksmith trade and followed the same for thirty years, after which he engaged in farming and stock raising. He died in 1878. The mother makes her home with her son Jewett, and is eighty-six years of age. Jewett Benedict was educated at the Dundee Academy. In 1851 he came with his parents to the farm where he now lives. In 1862 he joined the Union army, enlisting in the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth New York Infantry, serving but a short time, when he was discharged for disability. In 1863 he was drafted, re-enlisted and served until the close of the war in 1865. November 13, of the



same year, he married Julia E. Rogers, a native of Illinois, born July 12, 1844. Her father built the first steam saw-mill in Chicago, Ill., and made the first set of chairs manufactured there. Mr. and Mrs. Benedict have three children, Lewis H., Millie M., and Fernwood. In 1855 he formed a partnership in the grocery business with his brother Wesley, at Dundee, where he continued until the fall of 1862 when he sold out before entering the army. After the war he engaged in farming until 1867, when he moved to Caldwell County, Mo., remaining until 1870, when he returned to New York to his old home and commenced fruit farming.

Bunce, Loomis, was born in Massachusetts, in 1840, and when nineteen years of age came with his father and settled in Barrington, Conn., His father, Peter Bunce, was a farmer, and had eleven children. Loomis was a millwright by trade, and in company with John Spicer carried on that business, building many mills in this and adjacent counties, also carrying on farming extensively. He married Mary, daughter of William Holmes, of Steuben County, N. Y., by whom he had two children, Melvin N., who was killed at the battle of Gettysburg in 1863, and Eliza, wife of Hon. Geo. P. Lord, who resides in Dundee. Loomis Bunce died in March, 1878. He was twice married, his first wife dying in 1867, and his second wife, Eunice C. Olney, widow of Rev. D. B. Olney, in 1880.

Conklin, Thomas J., one of the wealthiest farmers of Starkey, and a native of Yates County, was born in Barrington, February 20, 1826, a son of Samuel and Esther (Ferrier) Conklin. The parents settled in this county in 1823 and had six children, three surviving: Mary A., wife of John H. Shannon; Sarah, wife of William T. Beaumont; and Thomas J. The parents were members of the Baptist Church of Himrods. The father, who was a stone mason in early life, afterwards a farmer, died in 1868, aged sixty-eight. The mother died in 1890, aged ninety-two. Thomas J. married, in Starkey, April 17, 1853, Mary A., daughter of Martha Titsworth, by whom he had one daughter, Charity, born July 22, 1855. She married December 21, 1876, B. F. Allen, a native of Buffalo, son of Ralph and Sephonia (Jenney) Allen. He was born March 9, 1848. Mr. Allen is largely engaged in the oil and lumber business in Pennsylvania. Mr. Conklin is one of the prominent

farmers of Yates County, and owns 320 acres of land adjoining Dundee. Mr. and Mrs. Conklin make their home with their daughter, Mrs. Allen.

Cook, Samuel, proprietor of the European Hotel at Dundee, is a native of Yates County, born June 16, 1851, son of James and Betsey (Kinney) Cook. He received a common business education at the Dundee district school. In 1875 he learned the miller's trade, with John Richardson, of Dundee, worked at his trade until 1888, after which he was clerk at the Wilson Hotel, of Dundee, until 1890, when he opened a hotel of his own. He has conducted a nice and neat little house, and received his share of the trade. Mr. Cook married on June 16, 1875, Emma A. Burns, a native of Dundee, born May 5, 1853, and daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Wilson) Burns.

Curtis, Thomas B., son of Roswell and Jerusha Curtis, who were born respectively August 1, 1795, and November 3, 1794, were married October 13, 1816. To their union eight children were born: Thomas B.; Charles, a resident of Howell, Mich.; Eliza, wife of William D. Doty, of South Lyon, Oakland County, Mich.; Lester, of Prairie, Ark.; Samuel, living in Illinois; Isabella, wife of J. J. Hooper (deceased); Esther, wife of Dr. E. Mosier, of Ann Arbor, Mich.; Caroline M. (deceased), wife of John T. Williams. Agar, the grandfather of Thomas B., moved to New York in 1796 with ox team and cart, the wheels of which, with an ancient clock, are now in the possession of Damon, a nephew of Roswell Curtis, of Exeter. He also owns the farm that belonged to his grandfather. Roswell, father of Thomas, learned the carpenter and joiner's trade, which he followed during the early part of his life, afterwards turning his attention to farming. He died October 29, 1869, his wife died July 24, 1869. Thomas B. Curtis was born on the farm where he now lives, July 28, 1817, and married September 10, 1842, Alvira, daughter of William B. and Martha (Wilson) Briggs. She was born April 7, 1820. Two children have been born to them, Lydia, wife of J. E. Teno; Frances, wife of Byron H. Disbrow. Mr. Curtis has served three terms as justice of the peace of this town; two terms as master of service, and several years as master of the poor. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Starkey.

Elliott, Edwin L., of Starkey, a fruit grower and nurseryman, was

born in Auburn, February 22, 1855, a son of Smith D. and Clarinda (Leavenworth) Elliott. The father followed the machinist's trade in early life, but for the past thirty years has been a farmer, being now in his seventy-sixth year, and his wife in her seventieth. They make their home with their son Hiram. Edwin L. married, August 20, 1890, Abbie, daughter of John and Catherine (Maroney) Fordham. She was born November 16, 1869, in Schuyler County, N. Y., and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Elliott owns a farm of forty-two acres with thirty acres of fruit. He shipped 1,000 bushels of peaches this year, one and one-half tons of grapes, 1,500 pounds of raspberries, and forty baskets of currants.

Elliott, Hiram, a fruit grower of Starkey, born September 19, 1857, in Yates County, is a son of Smith D. and Clarinda (Leavenworth) Elliott. (See sketch of parents elsewhere.) He owns a farm of sixty-three acres, with seven acres of peach orchard, sixteen acres of vineyard, eleven acres of raspberries, one of plums and pears. His farm produced this year \$2,440 worth of fruit, and \$470 worth of hay, grain, etc. During the six years that he has been the owner of this place he has made many improvements, the last of which was the erection of a fine, large grape-packing house at his vineyard.

French, Benjamin, of Eddytown, this county, is a farmer, residing on the farm of his great-grandfather, David, who was born in New Jersey, February 6, 1747. His wife, Sarah Wilcox, of New Jersey, was born October 8, 1755. David French settled on this farm about 1794. Benjamin, son of David, was born November 7, 1776, and received title of his farm June 8, 1803. He married Mary Conklin. He died on his farm November 7, 1808, and his wife February 9, 1811. They had two sons, David, who died in infancy, and Levi, born January 17, 1805. The latter married, in this county, December 17, 1826, Elizabeth Schenck. He died November 26, 1868, and his wife March 5, 1879. Levi French was the first to set grapes in Yates County, on his farm on the west bank of Seneca Lake. He was noted for his interest in fruit growing. Benjamin French, son of Levi, was born January 22, 1830, and married at Framingham, Mass., August 6, 1860, Catherine H. Gallagher. They have three children, Eliza H., Hattie B., wife of M. Wixson, of Washington, D. C., and Grace. Mr. French has been trustee of

Starkey Seminary for the past twenty years. The family are members of the Presbyterian Church of Dundee.

Gabriel, Spencer Bartlett (son of Lewis), was born July 27, 1835, and married Mary Marvin, of Waterloo, Seneca County, N. Y., by whom he had two children, Carrie and Marvin S. (both deceased). Lewis Gabriel was a carpenter by trade. Leverett, a brother of Lewis, married Harriet Booth, by whom he had three children.

Gulick, D. E., of Starkey Station, was born in Prattsburg, Steuben County, August 2, 1850, a son of Egbert and Livonia (Doubleday) Gulick. Previous to 1888 he had been engaged in farming, at which time he purchased the "Starkey Hotel," where he has a nicely arranged and comfortable hostelry, situated opposite Seneca Lake, from which it commands a fair view. Mr. Gulick is a genial host, and takes pleasure in catering to the wants of his guests. He has a well appointed livery stable which he runs in connection with his hotel. He married in this county, December 5, 1872, Ada C., daughter of George S. and Lydia E. Bailey. Two children have been born to them, Celia and Emma, the latter deceased.

Hair, Uriah, a farmer and fruit grower, born in 1825, now lives on and operates the same farm that was settled by his grandfather in 1806. Great-grandfather came from Massachusetts after grandfather had been here a few years and built him a log house on the farm and lived here until his death. He never owned any part of it. Mr. Hair married in 1845 Julia Smith, of which union a daughter was born, Mary, wife of William R. Stanton. Mrs. Hair died in 1849. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He married second, Emeline Huson. To their marriage one son was born, Luther M. In the fall of 1873 Mr. Hair moved to Rochester, N. Y., where he engaged in the grocery business, remaining but a short time. He returned to his farm near Dundee, where he now resides. He is an extensive fruit grower, has twenty acres of grape vineyard, forty acres of raspberries, 2,600 peach trees, fourteen acres of apple orchard, 1,200 plum trees, five and a half acres of strawberries and two acres of blackberries. In the fall of 1890 he shipped thirty tons of grapes. Mr. Hair is a member of the Masonic order, Dundee Lodge, No. 123, and both himself and wife are members of the Presbyterian Church.



Harpending, Andrew (son of Samuel), born February 24, 1819, has been a resident of Dundee since his birth. He married in 1877, Elida (daughter of Charles Hoyt), born in Reading, Schuyler County, December 17, 1848, by whom he had one son, Andrew, who died in infancy. He kept the old Harpending House from 1846 to 1849. In 1859, after the death of his brother Samuel, he took possession of the Harpending House and kept it until 1880. The house burned March 1, 1861, and the following year he rebuilt it on the site of the original house. He was the first president of the Dundee State Bank, and held that position until 1891, when he resigned on account of failing health. He has been one of the directors of the bank since its organization.

A. A. Harpending, proprietor of the Harpending House, is a son of Anthony C. and Mary R. (Sutphen) Harpending, and was born in Dundee, Yates County, January 17, 1851. He married July 11, 1869, Octavo Griswold, born in 1851. By this union two children were born, Anthony S. and John. Mr. Harpending engaged in the hotel business in 1880.

Harpending, Samuel, son of Peter, was born at Perth Amboy, N. J., April 17, 1778. His father was a soldier in the war of the Revolution and his mother died when he was young, in consequence of which he went to reside with his Grandfather Compton. At the age of thirteen years and six months he was bound out to Godfrey Bartels, a hatter of Germantown, N. J., having been to school only three months. He remained with Mr. Bartels until 1795 when he was released from his indentures, and having acquired a fair knowledge of the business, he returned to his father, who carried on the hatting business. There he remained a short time, when his father gave him a severe flogging, which he considered unjust, and being high-spirited and self-willed he determined to seek his fortune as a journeyman hatter. He stopped in several towns in New Jersey and in the winter of 1798 he reached Auburn, N. Y., intending to secure work on the old Cayuga bridge which was then being built. He became acquainted with Walter Wood, a wealthy lawyer of Aurora, N. Y., who was engaged in manufacturing hats, and there found employment for a few weeks. He was offered an acre of land for every beaver hat he could make, and he could make twelve a week. That year he returned to his native town and his father sent for him to come

and see him. After working at his trade in different places he married, December 6, 1806, Hannah Cosad, of Somerset County, N. J., and the following spring he came to Genoa, N. Y. He remained there five years, carrying on the hatting business, and in 1811 came to Dundee. They took possession of a log cabin and slept there that night, and during the night a large snake crawled in their bed. Mr. Harpending purchased one acre of land and built a house, which is still standing in Dundee. He then kept a public house and carried on the hatting business. That business he carried on for six years, employing four men. About 1818 he built a hotel on the ground where the Harpending House now stands. He carried on the hotel till 1834. Of his family of eight children (two daughters and six sons), Anthony C., Asbury, Abram, Andrew, and Samuel, all of whom are dead save Andrew. Asbury died April 3, 1853; Samuel died in April, 1859; Abram died April 23, 1871; Anthony C. died in September, 1880. Two died in infancy—May A. and Elizabeth. Mr. Harpending died June 30, 1852, and his wife in 1880, aged ninety-seven years and six months.

Harvey, C. C., M.D., was born in Enfield, Tompkins County, N. Y., March 28, 1848, was educated at the common schools, and was graduated from the University of Buffalo, in 1877. He immediately commenced the practice of medicine in Dundee, where he has since been located. Dr. Harvey was president of the Yates County Medical Society in 1885, secretary four years, and has held the office of county coroner since 1882, and surgeon for the Fall Brook Coal Company Railroad. He is also a member of the State Medical Society. He married Sarah M., daughter of Joseph Horton, of Starkey, in 1870.

Hays, David, a native of Essex County, N. J., came to Starkey about 1804 and settled on the farm now owned by his son David F. The farm never has passed out of the Hays family since. David H. was born June 16, 1816, and married Emeline Belcher, by whom he had five children, three living. One resides in Penn Yan, Gay; Janette, wife of Alvin T., resides in Dundee; and Washington D. The latter was born March 18, 1851, and has been a resident of the town ever since. He married Louise Henderson, by whom he had three children, one surviving, Fred D. He married second, Mary Westcott. In the spring of 1879 he opened a livery stable in Dundee, where he has been en-

gaged ever since. He has been constable ten years and deputy sheriff six years, also collector for two years.

Holden, Nelson, son of Roswell Holden, was born in Reading, Schuyler County, N. Y., September 26, 1822. In 1844 he was united in marriage with Martha C. Heggie, of Newark Valley, Tioga County, and in 1845 they settled on the farm in Starkey where he has since resided. They have two children, Theodore F. and Carrie H. Mr. Holden has held the office of highway commissioner for five years. He has always been a farmer and fruit grower. Theodore F., born in 1845, married Alice E. Hatch, and has three children. Carrie H. is the wife of Theron T. Dunn.

Horton, Theodore M., born in Wayne, Steuben County, N. Y., on August 11, 1845, is the youngest child of Dea. Thomas Horton, who was born at North Hector, Schuyler County, N. Y., in March, 1800, and who in 1805 came with his father Thomas to Wayne. Shortly after the family removed to Pultney, N. Y., where in 1810 was erected their old house near Pultney village, where the family resided for many years. Thomas, jr., married Rachel, daughter of David Lee, who early settled on land now a portion of the village of Penn Yan. Rachel Lee was born in Kent, Dutchess County, N. Y., on November 17, 1802, and married, February 27, 1822, in Pultney, where her father had removed some years before. Five sons and four daughters were born to them, all of whom are dead, except William E., who lives in Pultney; Delia M. (Mrs. Rev. A. B. Chace), of Corning, N. Y.; Joseph R., who lives near Keuka Lake, in Barrington; and Theodore M., a commercial traveler living in Dundee. T. M. Horton was for some years a merchant at Weston, N. Y., and selling his stock of goods took charge of the road work of the *Elmira Advertiser*. Afterward he became connected with Moser & Lyon and still later with Lyon, Milliard & Co., of Syracuse, N. Y., wholesale stationers, where he still remains. October 13, 1868, he was married by Rev. Philitus Olney, to Mary E., only daughter of William M. Jordan, of Crystal Springs, N. Y. Their two children are, Vern M., born August 25, 1871, now with Wall & Murdock, Dundee, and Grace Lillian, born June 4, 1879, who died at Dundee, June 20, 1885. Mr. Horton received his education in the district schools of his native town, and at Franklin Academy at Prattsburgh,

N. Y., graduating from Eastman College at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., in 1863. He is a Baptist in religious belief and a Democrat in politics. Mr. Horton was made a Mason in March, 1867, and in 1868 was elected secretary of Weston Lodge, No. 463, serving in that capacity two years. He has been elected junior warden, master, senior deacon, and senior warden. About eight years ago he affiliated with Dundee Lodge, No. 123, F. and A. M., and for four years served as senior deacon. In 1887 and '88 he was master of the lodge. The Hortons are of Puritan descent, being descendants of Barnabas Horton, who was born in Leicestershire, England, and came to Southold, L. I., in 1635. In 1638-40 he put up the first frame building erected on the east end of the island. Six generations were born, have lived and died in this old house.

Hults, Joseph W., a fruit grower of Starkey, located near Seneca Lake, is a native of New York, born in Pultney, Steuben County, January 25, 1841, a son of Charles T. and Deborah A. (Tomer) Hults, natives of Steuben County, N. Y. By that union nine children were born, seven now living, viz.: J. W., Mary E., wife of S. S. Hill; Sarah J., wife of W. Dibble; Martha, wife of James Austin; Rosena, wife of A. Coryell; Charles T., and one who died in infancy, and one died, Fred, aged seventeen. The father was a farmer and died January 30, 1874. The mother, yet living, is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Hults was reared on a farm, and married, in Pultney, Steuben County, December 31, 1863, Mary E., daughter of Benjamin and Susan Casterline. She was born September 23, 1844. They had two children, William J. and Myrta, the latter deceased. Joseph W. owns a grapeyard of thirteen acres and some twenty-three acres in other fruits. Both he and his wife are members of Starkey Methodist Episcopal Church.

Kline, John, A.M., was born in Berne, Albany County, N. Y., February 1, 1849, about a year after his people arrived in this country from Germany. He is the youngest of six children. When he was eleven years old his father died leaving him dependent upon his infantile resources. He secured work on a farm at three dollars per month, which he followed for four years when he engaged with a hotel-keeper in Schoharie County, N. Y., as hostler. This position he filled so acceptably that he was advanced to clerk and bar-tender, continuing thus for



two years. At seventeen years of age he became a clerk in a dry goods store in Middleburgh, N. Y. Two years later he engaged in a general merchandise store in Rensselaerville, N. Y., as head salesman, which position he held for two years. His schooling thus far had been limited and he now determined to devote himself to study. He entered Starkey Seminary in Yates County, N. Y., September, 1871, where he completed the prescribed course, graduating in June, 1873. The following September he entered Oberlin College where for six years he devoted himself assiduously to his scholastic work. He left school for an occasional term to teach, maintaining at the same time his position in college. He was graduated from Oberlin in 1879 and received his degree three years later. December 25, 1879, he married Frances A. Bassett, daughter of Allen Bassett, of Barrington, N. Y. In September, 1879, he established the Dundee Preparatory School, as an individual enterprise and maintained it until the close of the school year in 1891.

Lord, Charles B., son of Benjamin M., was born in Barrington, in 1833. In 1857 he married Ellen Chandler, and in 1864 he removed to Starkey, where he died in 1891. He was a farmer and fruit grower. His family, at the time of his death, consisted of a wife and four children, two of whom are married. Charles Ray and Edith remain on the homestead with their mother.

Lord, Ebenezer, a native of Connecticut, come to Barrington about 1825, and bought a large tract of land, where he resided until his death. His son, Benjamin M., was born in Ballston, Saratoga County, N. Y., in 1801, and came with his father to Barrington. He married Elizabeth Fleming, a native of New Jersey, and they had six children, of whom Kate is deceased. Benjamin died in 1858, and his wife in 1874.

Lord, Hon. George P., son of Benjamin M., was born in Barrington, July 23, 1832, and reared on the farm, graduating from Hobart College in 1856. He then went to Minnesota while it was a Territory and followed surveying and teaching. In 1859 he returned to Yates County and engaged in teaching and farming. The same year he married Eliza Bunce, daughter of Loomis Bunce, of Barrington. In the fall of 1860, he was elected school commissioner for Yates County and held that office six years. In 1870 he was elected to the State Legislature and

re-elected in 1871. In 1879 he was elected State Senator and re-elected in 1881, holding the office for four years. In 1878 he formed a co-partnership with W. C. and C. R. Swarts under the firm name of Lord & Swarts, carrying on a grain, malting and coal business for ten years. In 1891 he was elected president of the Dundee State Bank, which he helped to organize, and of which he has always been a director. He has been president of the board of trustees of the Dundee Preparatory School since its organization. In politics Mr. Lord is a Republican, having been an active worker in the party for many years.

Maloney, John M. (son of James and Margaret), was born in Caven-dish, Vt., in 1844. When fourteen years old he entered the pension office of the department of the interior at Washington, D. C., where he remained ten years. In 1869 he graduated from the medical department of the University of Georgetown. In 1870 he settled in Starkey, where he has since practiced. Dr. Maloney was coroner of Yates County three years, and has been health officer of the town for ten years. He is now treasurer of the Yates County Medical Society. He has been several times elected delegate to the State Society. In 1869 he was united in marriage with Josephine Huson, daughter of W. H. Huson, and they have six children.

Martin, Rev. Edward Winslow, was the pastor of the Baptist Church after its reorganization. He was originally from Vermont, but came to Harpending Corners from Geneva, where he had organized the only Baptist Church of that village. His pastorate was the longest of any on the records of the Baptist Church of Dundee, commencing in 1830 and ending in 1841. He was beloved by his people and had the confidence and respect of the community. In 1843 he removed to the town of Bath, Steuben County, and supplied the pulpits of the Savona and Oak Hill Churches. He died July 5, 1850. In every parish of which he was pastor a "meeting-house" was built.

Millard, Willis H. (son of Lewis M.), was born in Starkey, April 1, 1845, and was educated at the Starkey Seminary. He married L. Issa Hunt, of Milo, by whom he had four children, Della M., Adam Louis, Hugh Robinson and Harriet Lucele. In 1868, in company with his brother George W., he opened a store for general merchandise at Milo

Center, where they carried on business for four years. He then went to Elmira, traveling for J. H. Lyman & Co., for six months, then acting as clerk for the same length of time, then was for one year with Andrews & Co. He next went to Parker's Landing, Pa., engaging in the oil business for eleven years, when he returned to Dundee and formed a partnership with his brother, G. W., in the drug business, under the firm name of Millard Brothers, continuing four years, when G. W. retired from the business on account of failing health, Willis H. having since conducted the business alone. He has been a member of the Masonic fraternity since 1870, and both he and his wife are members of the M. E. Church, where he has been superintendent of the Sabbath school since 1887, also class leader and chorister.

Morrill, Prof. Alvah H., a native of Grafton, N. H., born June 7, 1848, is a son of William S. and Minerva T. (Dickerson) Morrill, natives of New Hampshire. The father, a minister of the Christian Church, was born January 28, 1821, and the latter February 14, 1822. She was a member of the same church and died March 29, 1875. Two children were born of this union, a daughter who died in infancy, and the subject of this sketch. Alva H. was educated at Dartmouth, where he graduated in 1872. On December 3 of that year he married Elizabeth L., daughter of John W. and Pamela W. (Philbrook) Hubbard. She was born December 3, 1853. Five children were born of this union, viz.: Ethel H., born May 15, 1874; Minerva T., born October 31, 1875; Herman V., born April 24, 1880; Dwight F., born February 4, 1884; and Pamela E., born October 24, 1886. Mrs. Morrill's parents are both living. Prof. Morrill after graduating, was installed pastor of the Christian Church at Rye, N. H. From thence he went to Andover, N. H., and became principal of the Proctor Academy until he was called to the pastorate of the Christian Church at Marion, Ind. For the past thirteen years he had been professor of New Testament Greek in the Christian Biblical Institute at Stanfordville, Dutchess County, N. Y. September 1, 1891, he became principal of Starkey Seminary, Eddytown, Yates County, with seven assistants and seventy-eight pupils. The winter term has 130 pupils. He is a member of the I. O. O. F.

Ovenshire, William, a farmer, came to Barrington when the town was new. Isaac, son of William was born in Barrington in 1822, and mar-

ried Matilda Snook, a native of New Jersey. They had six children, four living. Isaac died in 1858 and his widow resides with her son James M.

Ovenshire, James M, D.D.S., son of Isaac, was born July 10, 1856, and was engaged in the mercantile business at Barrington, in company with his brother, Myron H., for about three years. He graduated from the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1886, and has practiced at Dundee since.

Pierce, Abel, was born in Peru, Berkshire County, Mass., January 18, 1788. He married, in 1817, Nancy Lewis, of the same town, who was born in Taunton, Mass., in 1786, afterward settling in this town, four miles south of Dundee, and in company with his brother bought and cleared 100 acres of land. He was justice of the peace two terms. In going to catch his horse he struck his foot against a stone and fell, rupturing a blood vessel, from which he died Nov. 9, 1862. His wife died in May, 1863. They had two children, Adaline, widow of Alexander Ross, and Horatio L., who was born here, April 14, 1820, and has always resided in this town. He married Dorothy E., daughter of Jacob Y. Carpenter, and has one child, Sophia. He has been a successful farmer. Abner, another brother, came the same year and remained a short time, returning in 1836. He came back again, however, and bought a part of the same farm and other land with it. Abel was a successful farmer and carpenter.

Root, John W., a farmer, living one mile north of Dundee, is a native of New Jersey, Sussex County, born March 4, 1815, a son of Michael and Ann (Waldreth) Roof, who were farmers. John W. Roof learned the blacksmith trade in 1833, removed from New Jersey to Starkey, where he followed his trade for three years. He removed to Eddytown and afterward engaged in farming. He has been twice married, his first wife being Rhoda Royce, a native of this county, whom he married in 1846, and by whom he had one son. His wife died in 1846. He married, second, Cornelia B. Hemiup, by whom he had three children, all deceased.

Royce, David L., a citizen of Eddytown, and a native of the same, born September 13, 1826, is a son of Matthew (3d) and Jane Hender-



son Royce, and a grandson of Matthew Royce (2d) and Mary (Porter) Royce. Both were natives of Connecticut, born in Woodbury County, in 1744, and immigrated to New York settling in Reading, Steuben County, in 1800. Matthew died October 5, 1814. The grandmother died in the same county June 24, 1810. The father of our subject was born in Woodbury, Conn., March 10, 1775. The mother was born June 16, 1784, and their marriage occurred November 3, 1799. They had six children of whom two survive; David L. and John. They were members of the M. E. Church. David L. was educated at Starkey Seminary, and married in Starkey, February 25, 1863, Elizabeth, daughter of Eli and Betsey (Huson) Townsend. She was born May 13, 1832. Mr. Royce owns a farm of sixty acres. He was appointed postmaster of Eddytown under Grover Cleveland, in 1889. He engaged in the mercantile business at Eddytown where he has remained to the present time. He is a Mason of Dundee Lodge, No. 123.

Semans, Nelson, of Starkey, born there March 6, 1819, is a son of David and Polly (Starkey) Semans, who were natives of Maryland, where they were married. They moved to New York in 1816, settling in Tompkins County. In 1821 they moved to Starkey, where they lived until their death. They were the parents of ten children, seven of whom survive: William, Nelson, Matilda, wife of John Wilson, John E. Tildon, Benjamin J., and Emily, widow of Robert Conklin. David Semans was a Methodist minister, and died February 2, 1872. His wife, who was a member of the same church, died October 17, 1870. Nelson Semans was educated at Starkey, was reared on a farm, and married, June 28, 1844, Hannah, daughter of William R. Briggs, of this county. She was born in February, 1826. They had five children: William D., Byron H., Martha A., wife of John H. Stark; Corey D., and Carlton B. (deceased). Mr. Semans owns a good farm of 100 acres. His wife is a member of the M. E. Church.

Shannan, Lewis M., a farmer of Starkey, was born in Seneca County, N. Y., June 17, 1831, son of Thomas J. and Jale (Dunn) Shannan. The father, a native of this county, was born October 24, 1810, and died March 7, 1886. The mother was a native of New Jersey, born August 27, 1814. They were married in Seneca County, and had fourteen children, Lewis M. being the oldest. The mother is living with her daugh-

ter, Mrs. Rachel Rodgers, of this county. Lewis M. was educated in Seneca County, N. Y., and married in Yates County, in 1858, Hulda McCloud. Of their three children, two survive, Emmett, born in 1861, and Ida, wife of Eugene Henderson. Emmett married Ida Swartz, a native of this county, by whom he had one son, Erol. Mr. Shannan owns fifty-five acres of land one-half mile northeast of Starkey station, with thirteen acres of vineyard. His wife died August 10, 1891.

Shannon, Harrison, son of Daniel and Lydia (Raplee) Harrison was born in Starkey, November 28, 1816, and was educated at Dundee. He married, December 27, 1838, Marrinda Lewis, daughter of Joseph C. Lewis, a pioneer of Starkey. She was born July 16, 1818, and bore him two children, Mary, wife of Spencer R. Harpending; and Emmitt, born June 24, 1845, died December 6, 1845. Mr. Shannon owns a large farm and in 1880 built the Dundee elevator. He has been a liberal donator to the Baptist Church, to which society at different times he gave \$35,000, also \$10,000 to Cook Academy. He built the Baptist Church of Dundee, at a cost of \$15,000, and has been an active member of the church for many years.

Shannon Daniel, a native of Sussex County, N. J., born in 1787, was twice married, first to Betsey, daughter of Captain Wade, of Sussex County, N. J., by whom he had five children. He married second, Lydia Raplee, by whom he had fourteen children, eleven sons and three daughters. Eighteen of the children lived to adult age. Daniel died in 1871, and his wife in 1874. He was connected with the New Jersey Iron Works previous to coming to this county. He was one of the pioneers in Starkey, buying a large tract of land, which he divided among his children at his death. He was a boat builder, and also built the first woolen-mill in the county. He was a member of the church. He was an active business man and a valuable citizen in the early settlement of the county. Of the fourteen sons not one used tobacco or intoxicants.

Skiff, Alonzo, a farmer, of Starkey, born in this county September 9, 1826, is a son of Abner and Lorinda (Noteware) Skiff, natives of Connecticut, the father born in 1800, and the mother in 1806. They were married in Connecticut, and moved to New York in 1823, settling in

Beartown, this county. They were the parents of seven children, Alonzo being the oldest son. The father was a farmer and died in 1855, the mother dying in 1868. Mr. Skiff was educated at Starkey Seminary, and married November 13, 1848, Mahala Gabriel, by whom he had two children, Eugene and Plummer. Mr. Skiff owns and lives on the "Log City Farm" of 106 acres, which he bought in 1864.

Smith, Hon. Clark E. (son of David and Nancy), born in Starkey, March 8, 1842, was educated at the public schools and Dundee Academy, and until twenty-two years of age, was engaged in farming. In 1864 he opened a store in Dundee in company with Chalion Headly, under the firm name of Smith & Headly, continuing until 1866. In the same year he formed a partnership with George W. Kingsley, the firm name being Smith & Kingsley. They continued in the mercantile business until about 1873, when it was again changed to Smith & Headly, remaining so until 1875, when Mr. Smith opened a store alone, and continued until 1885. He was town clerk for five or six years, was elected supervisor of Starkey and held that office six years. He was elected to the State Legislature in 1884 and 1885, and since that has retired from business. He married in 1866, Mary A. Headly, and had one son, William, who died from a shot wound received from a toy pistol, when eleven years of age.

Smith, John J., came to Starkey about 1812, and settled on a farm near Dundee, where he had six children, all sons, three of whom are living, two in Wisconsin, and one in Watkins, N. Y. David was born about 1804, and died in 1854. He was a farmer and married Nancy Plummer, by whom he had five children, two of whom survive, Hon. Clark E., and John J. Both reside in Dundee.

Sprowls, Daniel, a farmer, living three miles northeast of Dundee, was born in Yates County, January 21, 1816, a son of James and Susan Concelius Sprowls, natives of Sussex County, N. J. They moved from New Jersey to New York in 1811, locating in this county, and had seven children, Daniel being the sixth and now the only living child. His parents, who were farmers, died in this county in 1854. Daniel was educated in the public schools of Starkey, and married, March 12, 1840, Rebecca Suppler, a native of Yates County, born April 15, 1818,

who bore him two children, Mary, the wife of John L. Beardslee, and Albert T., who died aged sixteen years. Mr. Sprowls owns 160 acres of fine land, and has an elegant and commodious residence, which he built in 1870.

Stilson, Dr. George L., was born in Groton, N. Y., September 9, 1851. When twenty-five years of age he commenced the study of Veterinary Science with Dr. Waldow Lyons, of Watkins, N. Y., with whom he remained about four years. He commenced practice as a Veterinary in Dundee, in 1879, and has since continued here in that profession. He married Hattie R. Holden, of Harford, N. Y.

Tetor, Robert, a native of Columbia County, N. Y., resided in Lyons, Wayne County, from 1835 until 1841, when he moved to Sodus, where he lived till 1855, and then removed to Williamson. In 1864 he returned to Sodus, and in 1868 moved to Starkey, this county, where he died June 7, 1882. He married Catherine Steegar, by whom he had eight children, of whom seven are living, and six reside in Yates County, and one in Tompkins County. Mrs. Tetor died September 14, 1884. Of their children, Norman resides in Dundee; Sylvanus is a farmer and small fruit grower near Dundee; Mary is married and lives in Freeville; George resides near Dundee on a fruit farm; Hattie is married, and her sister Phoebe lives with her on a fruit farm, near Dundee; and Robert resides near Dundee on a small place.

Titworth, Hiram, was born in New Jersey, November 9, 1788, and was drafted in the war of 1812. He married Charity Swartz, of New Jersey, in 1812, and settled near Dundee, where he resided until his death. He had five children, two of whom survive, Margaret, wife of William Green, and Baltus. The latter was born December 4, 1814, and has always resided in this town. In 1835 he married Betsey Millard, by whom he had three children, one surviving, Ella, wife of George Millard, residents of Syracuse. They are members of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Titworth owns the homestead farm where his father settled, the foundation of the old chimney of the log house still standing. Dr. Millard, a native of Massachusetts, came to Starkey about 1823. He was a farmer and had a family of ten children, of whom one is deceased, and three are residents of Dundee, Mrs. Titworth, Mrs. Raplee and Mrs. Barnes.



Townsend, Eli, came to Dundee about 1827, and married Betsey Huson, born in 1785, by whom he had six children. He died in 1885, having been a large farmer and miller at Glenora. His wife survives him. The only son living, William, was born April 29, 1827, and has lived most of his life in Starkey. He is a ship carpenter by trade and has worked in New Orleans and other cities. He was postmaster at Glenora, under Cleveland, and deputy postmaster under Major G. W. Budd, for seven years. In 1878 he built the store which he now occupies. In 1853 he was in the mercantile business and boat building, under the firm name of H. P. Sleeper & Co., remaining four years. He married, January 31, 1863, Julia Weller, daughter of Judge Noble Weller, of Chemung, N. Y.

Wilson, George N., was born in Hillsdale, Columbia County, N. Y., February 8, 1813. In 1822, his father, Solomon, moved to Barrington, where he resided most of the time until his death on July 20, 1860. His wife, Mary, died October 28, 1858. George N. received his education in an old school-house in Barrington, with the exception of a short time at select school, and when fifteen years old learned the shoemaker's trade with Miles Terrill. At the age of eighteen he went to Ohio, where he worked at his trade for two years, then opened a shop at Bath, Steuben County, N. Y., remaining but a short time. He was for several years journeyman shoemaker, and then returned to Barrington to care for his aged parents, carrying on business there, and devoting all his spare time to study, teaching school two terms. In 1848 he married Elsie A. Murlin, who died February 7, 1878. He married second, in 1879, Catharine Sirrine, of Trumansburg, N. Y. Mr. Wilson was appointed loan commissioner for Yates County by Gov. Reuben E. Fenton, and held the office six years. He was supervisor of Barrington one term. It 1861 he was called to Jackson, Mich., to take charge of the shoemaking department of the State prison. In 1864 he entered the employ of Stone & Stewart, publishers, of Philadelphia, and was commercial traveler for about six years, since which time he has retired from active life.

Willis, Dr. F. L. H., a man of culture and intellectual ability and a fine public speaker, came to Yates County from New York city twenty-one years ago. He purchased a fine estate at Rock Stream Point on

Seneca Lake, near Glenora, one of the most beautiful points on the lake, and the doctor has erected here an elegant summer cottage. Dr. Willis is a native of Boston and was educated at Harvard University and at the Homœopathic Medical College of New York city, where he graduated in 1865. He had previously been a settled clergyman of the Liberal School of Theology. Soon after his graduation he was called to the chair of materia medica in the Woman's Medical College of New York, which he filled for several years, and at the same time secured a lucrative practice. Failing health obliged him to abandon this field of operations. For three years he was unable to do any service in the profession to which he was so much attached. On his return from Europe, in 1870, he became a resident of Yates County, and has identified himself with its interests, maintaining full citizenship here, but has passed his winters in Boston, New York or Rochester. He married Love M., daughter of the late Henry Whitcomb, esq., of Hancock, N. H., a lady of culture and diversified accomplishments, and well known as a talented writer. She is the author of the following beautiful religious hymn, that has found a place in the hymnals of almost every religious denomination in the country:

Father ! hear the prayer we offer ;  
For sweet peace we do not cry,  
But for grace that we may ever  
Live our lives courageously.

Not within the fresh, green pastures,  
Will we ask that we may lie ;  
But the steep and rugged pathway,  
That we tread rejoicingly.

Not beside the clear, still waters,  
Do we pray thou wilt us guide,  
But we'd smite the flinty boulder,  
Whence the living spring may glide.

If we go where flowers of summer  
Still the rugged path adorn,  
Let us weave them into garlands,  
Though each one should bear a thorn.

Be our strength in every weakness,  
In our doubt be thou our guide,  
Through each peril—through each danger,  
Draw us nearer to thy side.

Dr. and Mrs. Willis have but one child, Edith, the wife of Dr. S. H. Linn, of Rochester, N. Y., a distinguished surgeon, late of St. Petersburg, Russia. She has inherited largely the intellectual gifts and accomplishments of her parents, and is a poet of rare sweetness and grace. Her name is frequently seen in the journals and magazines of the day. She has already published two volumes of her poems, and being young in life, will, should she live, doubtless make a decided impression upon the literature of the next quarter century.

Wixon, C. N., a farmer and fruit grower of Starkey, and a native of Steuben County, N. Y., was born June 12, 1830, a son of Shubel and Charlotte (Dekay) Wixon. His parents were natives of Cayuga County, N. Y., and came to Steuben County, in 1820 and were the parents of ten children, nine of whom survive. The father was a successful farmer and died in 1862; the mother died in 1882. Mr. Wixon married in Steuben County, in 1854, Cornelia E., daughter of William Prentiss. Six children were born of this union, of whom three survive, Harriet, wife of Henry W. Fisher, now of Pittsburg, Pa.; Fred C., principal in the high school at Ottumway, Ia.; and Nellie E. Mr. Wixon moved to this county in 1865 and in 1868 he moved to New York city, remaining there until the spring of 1876, when he returned to his farm in Yates County, which consists of seventy-two acres, with thirty acres of grape-vines. He shipped in the fall of 1890, twenty-five tons of grapes.

Young, H. J., was born in Wellsboro, Pa. He taught school in Dundee, N. Y., three years, and graduated from Cook Academy in 1876, after which he carried on the boot and shoe business in Dundee five years. He has been insurance agent since 1879, town clerk nine years, assistant postmaster since 1888, and is assistant cashier of the Dundee State Bank, having held that position since February, 1889. He has been clerk of the board of supervisors for three years. He married Emma K. Galloup, of Ovid, N. Y., and has three children.

#### TOWN OF JERUSALEM.

Babcock, Arnold, was born in Reading, Steuben County, in 1831. His father, Oliver Babcock, was born in Massachusetts, and his mother, Chloe Weller, in Washington County, N. Y. They came to Yates County, in 1834. In 1851 Arnold Babcock married S. Cornelia Stebins, of Rensselaerville, Albany County, by whom he has four children, viz.: Hattie E., wife of J. V. Masten, of Second Milo; Dr. Marcus E., of Branchport; Dewitt T., a farmer of Jerusalem; and Minnie H., who lives at home. During the early part of his life Arnold Babcock was engaged in farming and lumbering. In 1867, however, he began the cultivation of grapes on the west shore of the west branch of Lake Keuka, where he now resides.

Baldwin, Orin R., son of Alfred and Moriah (Cowan) Baldwin, was born in Italy, N. Y., July 22, 1845. He was educated at the common schools, and after obtaining his majority, removed to Big Rapids, Mich., and remained for about twenty years. He then came to Jerusalem in 1881, and has been farming ever since. In politics he has been a Democrat. He married Lydia, daughter of Daniel Parker, of Big Rapids, Mich., and they have two children, Gertrude J. and Alfred D.

Belknap, James A., son of Briggs Belknap, was born in Newbury, Orange County, N. Y., March 16, 1816, and came with his father to Benton County when he was a young man, he remaining there until twenty-five years of age, attending district school during the winter months. Mr. Belknap came to this town about 1841 and bought a tract of land, having at the time no money. With energy and determination he paid for it, and now owns a model farm of 150 acres with about twenty acres in grapes and peaches. He has been a Republican ever since that party came into existence. He and his family are members of the Presbyterian Church at Branchport. June 16, 1842, he married Submit, daughter of Clark Green, of this place, by whom he had the following children: Mary E., who married Morrison L. Chase; Adeline, who married Melvin J. Davis; Frances A., and Charles G. Mrs. Belknap died March 19, 1884.

Benedict, C. C., son of William N. and Huldah A. (Green) Benedict, was born December 24, 1842, in Jerusalem, was educated at the common schools, and lived with his father on the farm, working also at the wagon-making business, until his father's death in 1878. He then built a factory for the manufacture of fruit baskets, in which he has had great success. He also owns a fine fruit farm, which is in fine cultivation. In politics he is a Republican. Though not a member of any church, his family attend and are members of the Universalist Church at Branchport, N. Y. His first wife was Nancy H. Slingerton, of this town, whom he married in February, 1873. She died in 1878, leaving one daughter, Helen I. He married second, Samantha J. Potter, and by this marriage has one child, Ethel, aged seven years.

Bishop, Robert C., son of John H. and Lydia A. (McCann) Bishop, was born March 19, 1847, in this town and was educated at Penn Yan



Academy. After finishing his education he taught school throughout this part of the State for fourteen terms, but his health failing him he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked for a few years. He then bought a fruit farm, which he has brought to a fine state of cultivation. Mr. Bishop is independent in politics. He was elected justice of the peace in 1885, and served for four years, and also elected supervisor for 1892 by the People's party. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Bluff Point, and has been an active member of the Sunday-school.

Bishop, Seth B., son of John H. and Lydia A. (McCann) Bishop, was born February 29, 1852, in this town. He was educated at the common schools and Penn Yan Academy. After leaving school he learned the carpenter's and afterward the wagon-maker's trade which he still continues at Bluff Point. He was appointed postmaster under President Cleveland and served for four years. He is now acting as deputy postmaster. Mr. Bishop married, first, Lorinda Wilcox, of this town, who died fourteen years later. He married, second, Clara A. Graham. In politics he is a Democrat.

Botsford, Samuel, son of Elijah and Margaret (Scott) Botsford, was born in this town in 1809, and was educated at the common schools of that day. He was a farmer and taught school during the winter months. A Republican in politics, he was prominent in town and county affairs, was supervisor of Jerusalem for four terms, and clerk of Yates County one term. Mr. Botsford married Esther C., daughter of Levi and Mariah Spangler, of this town, and they have four children: Frank, who married Myrtie (who died June 26, 1890), daughter of Dr. J. C. Wightman, of Branchport, N. Y.; Walter (deceased); Mary, who married George D. Vail, of this town, and Dr. Wade H. Botsford, who lives at Dresden, N. Y. Frank now owns the old homestead and carries on farming and fruit growing. His mother lives with him.

Boyd, Robert McDowell, born in 1811, married Mary H., daughter of Elisha Luther, in 1840, and lived on the Friend's Tract, lot 44, Guernsey Survey, in Jerusalem. His wife died in 1866, aged forty-five. Their children were, Sidney (deceased), Barrett A., Martha, Tompkins W., Charles, Albert, Ellen M., and Fred. Albert Boyd was born April

14, 1854, was educated at the district schools, and has been a farmer and fruit grower. He was in partnership with his father-in-law, under the firm name of Paris & Boyd, in the manufacture of fruit baskets, for several years, but sold out, and now devotes his time to farming and fruit raising. He owns a fine farm near Branchport. In politics he is a Republican. He married Hattie, daughter of David H. Paris, of Branchport on May 14, 1879, and their children are Mabel, Willie, David, Helen and Mary (twins), and Florence Irene.

Brown, Hon. Everett, son of J. Warren and Rosalia Brown, was born in Italy, N. Y., on October 19, 1850, but came to Jerusalem with his parents when a child, where he attended school in his early years, going afterward to Penn Yan to attend the academy. His occupation has been that of a farmer and fruit grower. In politics he is a Republican, having been very prominent in his town, county and State. Mr. Brown was presidential elector at Albany, N. Y., in 1888, and was elected representative to the Assembly of New York in 1890, and again in 1891. He is a member of Milo Lodge, F. A. M., and Minnesetah Lodge, No. 234, K. of P., of Penn Yan. December 25, 1870, he married Mary E. Cairnes, of Jerusalem, N. Y., and their children are Nellie May and Rosalia.

Brown, George H., son of Richard A. and Judith (West) Brown, was born March 3, 1841, and was educated at the common schools and Penn Yan Academy. Mr. Brown is a farmer and fruit grower. He married a daughter of Isaac Palmanteer, of Steuben County, N. Y., and their children are Mary J., Addie M., Franklin D., and George H., jr. Mr. Brown is a Democrat in politics.

Brown, J. Warren, was born in Jerusalem, June 16, 1826, and was educated at the common schools of that time. He possessed great natural ability and endowments, and these were enriched by learning, and years of experience. In politics a Republican, he always took an active interest and part in the affairs of the town and county. He has held the following offices in this town: Supervisor, town superintendent of schools, and school commissioner of Yates County. Mr. Brown was modest and unobtrusive, dignified and courteous in manner, and was well known throughout the county. He married Mrs. Rosalia A. Payne,

July 14, 1850, and they had two sons, Everett, who married Mary E., daughter of Charles Cairns, of this town; and Frank, who married a daughter of John H. Bishop, of Jerusalem.

Bush, Dr. Wynans, was born in Florida, N. Y., in 1799, a son of William T., and grandson of Adjutant William Bush, who served in the Revolutionary army. Dr. Bush graduated in the medical college in Barclay street, New York City. In 1824 he married Julia Ann Loomis, of Coventry, Conn. In 1825 they removed to Vienna now (Phelps), where Dr. Bush began practice as a physician. In 1832 they removed to Branchport, where he remained until his death, March 14, 1889, in his 90th year. Their children were Elliott N., who was killed at Guntown, Miss., while in command of his regiment: Henry M., who died at Montgomery, Ala., in February, 1889; Irene, wife of Prof. S. W. Clark, the noted teacher and author of grammars, living now at Spencerport, N. Y.; Caroline, was married at Branchport to Rev. H. H. Jessup, D. D., went to Beirut, Syria, and dying on the home voyage in 1863, was buried at Alexandria, Egypt; Ellen, wife of R. W. Hopkins, of Prattsburgh, N. Y.; Harlan Page; Frances, wife of Rev. E. H. Stratton, of Branchport, N. Y.; Robert P., and Julia G., the latter being Mrs. S. C. Bradley, of Kings Ferry, N. Y. All the sons of Dr. Bush were soldiers in the Union army. Harlan P. Bush was born in 1837, and received his education at the district schools and Cortland Academy. In politics he has always been a Republican. Mr. Bush has been a teacher for a number of years, was school commissioner from 1881 to 1884, and is also a successful farmer. He was a soldier in the 15th New York Engineers, and was present at the surrender of Lee. He married Samantha L. Ingram, in 1863, and their children are Fred W., Warner C., Ralph E., Irene, Charlotte L., and Mabel. Robert P. Bush is a physician of Horseheads, and is now serving his seventh term as member of Assembly from Chemung. He is Speaker of the House.

Campbell, Thomas W., son of James B. and Nellie (Houghtaling) Campbell, was born in this town, May 22, 1856, and was educated at the common schools and Starkey Seminary, after which he taught school for about six years. He now owns a large farm in the western part of the town. In politics he is a Republican, and was justice of the

peace, and justice of sessions two terms each, and was elected supervisor at the last election. Mr. Campbell is a contributor to the Penn Yan papers. In 1882 he married Mary, daughter of Oscar Conley, of this town, and they have one child, Edna, eight years of age.

Carvey, Samuel P., son of William and Elizabeth H. Carvey, was born in Goshen, Orange County, N. Y., July 19, 1814. In 1821 he came with his parents to Milo Center, this county, with a team, where they remained for two years, and then removed to Jerusalem. Samuel P. lived with his father until he reached his majority. He never attended school after twelve years of age. He hired out to one of the neighbors for thirteen dollars a month, and afterwards cut cord wood for twenty-five cents per cord. His first purchase of land was made in the town of Italy, for which he paid five dollars per acre. About this time he learned the trade of cooper, working at it for thirteen years, using the timber on his land, which was the only way he had of securing the necessities of life at that time. By his energy and perseverance he now owns 517 acres of land, all in a good state of cultivation. He has always voted with the Democratic party. Mr. Carvey married first, Hannah, daughter of Giles Robison, of Springport, N. Y., and their children were Emily J., Charles (deceased), and Lewis. Mrs. Carvey died March 31, 1848. For his second wife he married Phear, daughter of Abram Youngs, of this town, and his children by this union are John, Emma, Wilcox, Judson, and Alice.

Casterline, John V., was born in Sussex County, N. J., September 23, 1839, where the first seven years of his life were passed. In 1846 he came to New York State with his parents, locating in the town of Pultney, Steuben County, where he resided until 1863, when he came to Bluff Point. In the autumn of 1863 he united in marriage with Nancy A. Dykman. One child was born to them, Ida L., who is now the wife of S. H. Vrooman, of Penn Yan. After the death of his wife, Mr. Casterline again wedded, this time Miss Bertha Haight. Two daughters were the fruit of this union. After his second bereavement he married Sarah Fulkerson, of Big Flats. Three more daughters have been added to the family circle, Stella B., Susie C., and Nellie S. In the spring of 1891, Mr. Casterline and family united with the Free Baptist Church at Keuka College. He is a most successful fruit grower and now owns a



fine fruit farm on the east branch of Lake Keuka. In politics he is a staunch Democrat.

Champlin, Elisha, son of Rowland and Mary (Ingram) Champlin, was born in this town, October 20, 1843, was educated at the district schools and has been a farmer all his life. He resides on a portion of the homestead, a fine farm in the western part of this town. Mr. Champlin has always voted the Democratic ticket. He married Sarah, daughter of William and Melissa (Genung) Sisson, of Italy, N. Y., and they have had two children, Mary S., who died aged thirteen, and Charlie Gardner Champlin.

Champlin, Rowland, son of George W. and Araminta (Henderson) Champlin, was born March 21, 1847, and was educated at the common schools. He has been a farmer all his life. In politics he is a Republican. He enlisted in January, 1864, in Company A, Fiftieth New York Engineers, and went to Washington, D. C., and from there to City Point, Va. He was mustered out June 13, 1865. He married Sarah J., daughter of Thomas Dinehart, of Potter, N. Y., and they have had three children, Ella, George (deceased), and Peter Champlin.

Cole, Erastus, son of Erastus and Lois (Dickson) Cole, was born April 29, 1820, in this town, was educated at the common schools, and has always been a farmer. He married Sarah, daughter of Henry Larzelere, and had four children, viz.: Mary; Ella, who died in December, 1859; George H. and Ward L. Mr. Cole has a fine fruit and vineyard farm in this town. In politics he is a Republican. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Kinney's Corners, of which he is one of the trustees.

Comstock, Family, The.—Achilles, son of Samuel Comstock, was born in Connecticut, in 1757. He was a soldier in the Revolution and one of the Rangers employed in the irregular warfare of the borders, which was fought with thrilling excitements. The Tories and refugees were accustomed to drive away the cows and other stock, and this property was carefully watched to save it from pillaging bands. To thwart these bands, led to many daring adventures and narrow escapes, in which Mr. Comstock was a participant. After the close of the war Achilles married Sarah, daughter of Elnathan Botsford, sr., and they had one son,

Israel, and two daughters, Apphia and Martha. The family came to the New Jerusalem in 1767, in company with the Botsford family. They made a purchase in 1799 of 400 acres on the north side of the Friend's estate in Jerusalem, which was a strip of land two miles long and 100 rods wide. Their title to this land was involved in the long litigation which commenced in 1811 and ended in 1828, and which caused them much trouble and anxious suspense as well as expenditure of money. Mr. Comstock was a prominent citizen, and most of the time in the early years from 1803 to 1815, held some office in the town. He was an early adherent of the Methodists and his wife was a member of the Friend's Society. He died in 1832, aged seventy-five years, a much respected citizen. His wife died in 1845, aged seventy-nine, an exemplary and devoted Christian. Their daughters belonged to the sisterhood of the Friend's Society. Israel Comstock was born in Warington, Litchfield County, Conn., in 1794. In 1800 he removed with his father to Jerusalem, and on the same farm where he died, over sixty-five years later. He distinctly recollected his first visit to Penn Yan, which then had but two houses in it, probably in 1798 or 1799. He for many years held various town offices, the duties of which he discharged with integrity and fidelity. He was always a liberal and progressive man, and at the time of his death was president of the Yates County Historical Society. He was deeply interested in the objects of that organization, and resolutions expressive of high respect for his memory were published by the society. Few men were better acquainted with the men who filled a place in the events which transpired in our early annals, and his many contributions were always welcomed, as an addition to the history of times now fading fast from the minds of men. For thirty-four years he was a consistent member of the Methodist Church and most of the time an official and leading member. His integrity was the key to his whole character, for it produced that scrupulous fidelity to his trust and industry in its discharge which caused him to be respected and honored by his fellow citizens. He married in 1821, Jane, daughter of Thomas Sutton, of Jerusalem. She was born in Eversham, Burlington County, N. J., February 25, 1799. She lived on the farm where they first settled about sixty-two years, and her life covered mostly the entire history of this county, from the time it was an

unbroken wilderness. She endured all the hardships and privations incident to a new country, and being possessed of a strong mind and good judgment, she took a deep interest in everything calculated to benefit her family or society in general. She was for sixty-two years a faithful and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Israel Comstock died in January, 1866, aged seventy-one years, and Jane, his wife, died October 2, 1884, aged eighty-six years. They had three children, Botsford A., John J., and Sarah S. Botsford A. Comstock was born on the homestead, November 12, 1823, and is well known throughout the county. He held the office of justice of the peace in his native town for twenty years. He was justice of sessions in this county in 1885-86. His public career in his native town has been most creditable. He had confided to him the most delicate duties in the settlement of estates. In these matters of importance his judgment and advice has been much sought and has secured the highest respect. For fifty years he was an active and influential member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Potter, and was steward and leader for thirty-four years. He died September 11, 1886, aged sixty-three years. John J. Comstock, second son of Israel was born July 30, 1826, and is an honored and respected citizen, occupying an important position in the town in which he lives. He resides on part of the old homestead. He married Mary E., daughter of Robert Miller, of Pultney, and their children are Robert J., John A., George P., and Wilbur F. The latter two are married. Sarah S. Comstock lives on her farm in Potter, and also occupies part of the homestead farm in Jerusalem.

Comstock, John J., son of Israel and Jane (Sutton) Comstock, was born July 30, 1826, in Jerusalem, N. Y., was educated in Penn Yan Academy, and has been a farmer in this town ever since. He has been a Republican ever since the party was organized, and has been commissioner of highways for three terms, and in 1887 was elected justice of the peace and still holds that office. His family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is one of the oldest members of the Milo Lodge, F. and A. M., at Penn Yan, N. Y. He married Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Robert and Susan (Wagner) Miller, of Pultney, N. Y. Their children are Robert I., born March 15, 1855; John A., born March 26, 1858; George B., born March 26, 1862; and Wilber F., born November 21, 1863.

Corey, Leman, son of Christopher and Abigail (Washburn) Corey, was born in Italy, N. Y., August 10, 1831, and after the common schools received his education at Ann Arbor, Mich. After leaving college he returned to the farm, where he has been very successful, both in Italy and Jerusalem. In 1877 he purchased what is known as the Squier farm, on the boundary line between Italy and Jerusalem, which was owned by his wife's father, Nathaniel Squier. Mr. Corey married, September 3, 1856, Hannah, daughter of Nathaniel and Phebe (Wells) Squier, of Jerusalem, N. Y., and their children are Harriet D., Olivia, who married Dr. John Arden Conley, of Middlesex, N. Y.; Carrie P., and Charles H. S. Corey. In politics Mr. Cory is a Democrat.

Culver, Franklin, son of William and Phebe (Swift) Culver, was born April 12, 1816, in Ledyard, Cayuga County, N. Y., was educated at the common schools of that time and came with his parents to this town in 1836, and has been a farmer all his life. In politics a Democrat, he has been commissioner of highways one term, and assessor of this town four years. He married Harriet, daughter of Capt. John Phelps, of Bradford, Steuben County, N. Y., and they had ten children: Angeline and Mary Jane (deceased); John, who married Mary Cummings; Amanda M., who married Hiram Cole; Julia, who married Benjamin Eggleston; Frank, Harriet, and William (deceased); Fred, and Vincent, who married Carrie Race. First wife died in 1868; married Almeda Hewitt, widow of Lucius Hewitt, in 1871.

Davis, Edgar E., son of Joseph and Rachel (Corwin) Davis, was born April 12, 1839. He has three brothers: Miles A., who lives at Havana, N. Y.; Melvin J., and George D., who lives in this town. Edgar was educated at the district schools, learned the carpenter's trade, but afterwards went to farming and has been a farmer ever since. In politics Mr. Davis is a Republican, and he has been assessor of Jerusalem for three years. He married Frances L., daughter of Cyrus Sherwood, of this town, and their children are: Florence L., Clarence C. N., John Clinton, and Harriet Jane, all of whom are living.

Davis, Watkin, is a descendant from Thomas and Eleanor Davis; they were born in Wales and came to America in 1800. They settled at Newport, Herkimer County, N. Y., with their family of three sons and



two daughters. Thomas, the father of our subject, came to Benton, Yates County, N. Y., in 1814. He married Irene Perry, a widow, born in 1774, whose maiden name was Watkins and who was also a native of Wales. They settled on a farm about one mile west of Penn Yan, where they were original settlers. Their children were Hannah, James T., Stephen N., Mary J., Watkin and Eleanor. Watkin Davis was born March 31, 1819 and was educated at the common schools of that time and was brought up on the farm and has been a successful farmer in the town of Jerusalem. He also owns a fine orange grove in DeLeon Springs, Volusia County, Florida, where he spends the winter months. He has been a breeder of short-horn Durham cattle. In politics he has always been an ardent supporter of the Republican party and has been supervisor of Jerusalem two terms and justice of the peace for about twelve years. He and his family are members of the Baptist Church of Penn Yan, N. Y. Mr. Davis married for his first wife, Emeline Beard, February 10, 1847, and they had three children, Ida, born December 27, 1857, married Clark C Dildine, of Hammondsport, N. Y.; James Watkin, born May 23, 1862; John Stephen, born March 14, 1864, married Lavina P., daughter of John Powell, of Rock Island County, Ills., and they have one son, Watkin Powell Davis; Emeline, died March 20, 1885. Mr. Davis married for the second time, Mary E., widow of Major Biers, of this town, April 6, 1887.

Dean, Albert E., son of Benjamin, who married for his first wife Eliza Randolph; they had four children: Sarah M., Elizabeth, Jephtha, and Mary J., and for his second wife he married Fannie Marriner, of Benton, N. Y., and they had four children: Amanda M., William M., Albert E., and Persis. Albert E. was born January 30, 1844, in Torrey, N. Y. He was educated at the common schools and at Penn Yan Academy. After leaving school he went to work on a farm in Livingston County, N. Y., and remained there until he enlisted in the service of his country December, 1862. He entered Company I, One Hundred and Forty-eighth Regiment, and was in the Army of the Potomac. He was at the battles of Fortress Monroe, Drury's Bluff, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and was at Richmond at the time of General Lee's surrender. He was mustered out in 1865 at the close of the war. Returning to this town he purchased a farm which he has greatly improved. He

is a Republican in politics. Mr. Dean married Sarah Jane, daughter of Davis Bergstresser, of Potter, N. Y., and they have three children: Nora J., Charles and Lizzie, all living.

Dean, Julius Z., son of Alexander and Lois (Griswold) Dean, was born in Italy, N. Y., July 9, 1831, and was the eldest of the children of whom the others were: Ezra V., Sarah M., Abraham V. (deceased), Dianthum M., Elizabeth and Loie A. Julius was educated at the common schools. He has been a farmer all his life, and in politics is a Republican. He and his family are members of the M. E. Church of Branchport, N. Y. Mr. Dean married Harriett, daughter of Chester Tinney, of this town, January 1, 1855. Their children are Alice Alida, who married James Corwin; Carrie E., who married Edwin Squier; and Minnie M., who lives with her parents.

Enos, John A., is a descendant on the maternal side of Abiel Carpenter, who served in the Revolutionary War and was at the battle of Bunker Hill; on the paternal side of Alexander Enos, of Connecticut. He is the son of Newton and Mercy Enos, and was born in Canton, N. Y. At an early day they settled at Hoosick Falls, N. Y., remaining there a few years, they removed to Whitestown, N. Y. They had eight sons and three daughters, John A., being the eldest child. He lived with his father until eighteen years of age, then went as an apprentice to a tanner and currier at Marcellus, N. Y. While he was there General La Fayette and his son came to that place and young Enos shook hands with the distinguished guests. From there Mr. Enos came to Jerusalem, N. Y., and bought a farm on which he still lives. He has been a very successful farmer. In politics he is a Democrat. He married, first, Mary Ann, daughter of Hull Sheppard, of Skaneateles, N. Y.; she died in 1880. They had two sons, Isaac Newton, who died when six years old, and George A., who died in 1880, aged forty-eight years. For his second wife Mr. Enos married Mariah, daughter of Albert Cowen, of this town.

Finnigan, John, son of Barney and Ann (Farrel) Finnigan, was born in Pultney, N. Y., was educated at the common schools, and lived on the farm until the war, when he enlisted in Co. I, 34th N. Y. Regt. in April, 1861. He was in the Army of the Potomac under Gen. McClel-

lan, and was in the battles at Antietam, Fredericksburg, where he was wounded in the left arm, Fair Oaks and Savage Station. He was mustered out of the service in 1863. After his term expired he went to Salamanca, N. Y., and engaged in the lumber business, remaining there two years. He then came to this town and opened a blacksmith shop at Kinney's Corners, but soon after engaged in farming and fruit raising in this town, in which he has been successful. Mr. Finnigan was elected supervisor for one term, and is the present overseer of highways in this place. He married Rebecca, daughter of John C. Fitzwater, of this town, and they have two children, Ella and Carrie. In politics Mr. Finnigan is a Democrat.

Gelder, John, a native of Yorkshire, England, came to Geneva, N. Y., about 1835. He resided there five years, then settled in Jerusalem, where he lived until his death, in 1881. Of his six children four survive; John jr., was born in 1838 and married Elizabeth, daughter of Benona Pearce, by whom he had four children, two of whom are living, Jennie E. and Edwin B. Mr. Gelder has a farm of 140 acres, and a grape vineyard of twenty acres. He has served as assessor one year. Mr. Gelder owns the farm where his father settled over fifty years ago.

Haire, Robert, was one of the early settlers of the town of Starkey, Yates County, and made the first clearing on the farm where he settled. He was the father of ten children; one son, Ezra, born in 1812, was a native of that town. He married Eliza A. Tomer, of Pultney, and moved to a farm in Jerusalem, where he died. They had four children, two of whom survive, Elwyn and Mary, wife of E. G. Clark. Ezra died in 1874 and his wife in 1858. Elwyn Haire was born July 31, 1846, and married Malinda Chase, of this town, by whom he had four children, Walter L., Ann Eliza, Jennie R., and Vernon W. Elwyn and wife are members of the M. E. Church at Branchport, of which church Mr. Haire is steward, having served in that capacity since 1874.

Harris, James K., son of John and Abigail (Brown) Harris, the youngest of eleven children, was born December 8, 1845, in this town, was educated in the district schools of Jerusalem and has been a farmer all his life. In politics he is an Independent. He married Mary, daughter of Moses and Honor Hartwell, of this town, and they live on

the Hartwell homestead in the northern part of the town, and have two children, Grace E. and Charles E., both living.

Hayes, George G., son of Cephas and Hezekiah (Edson) Hayes, was born December 25, 1819, in Prattsburgh, N. Y. His education was at the common schools. At the age of twenty he began farming and lumbering at Prattsburgh. After a few years he removed to Geneva, N. Y., but remained there only a year, returning to his native town where he remained four years, and from there he removed to Italy, N. Y., and bought a farm of 500 acres and brought the greater part of it to cultivation. In 1871 he removed to Jerusalem, near Penn Yan, and bought a small fruit farm, where he is enjoying his later days in retirement. In politics Mr. Hayes is a Republican. His first wife was Lucinda Burke, who lived about four years. He married second, Eleanor Robson, who died aged sixty-one years. By this union there were three sons, Warren H., a successful architect, residing in Minneapolis, Minn.; Charles, died aged sixteen, and George R., who lives in York, Pa. For his third wife Mr. Hayes married Jennie, daughter of Thomas Gelder, of Italy, N. Y., and they have two children, Bertha Salena, and Guy G. Hayes.

Heck, George W., son of George and Margaret (Hoffstater) Heck, was born December 28, 1839, in this town. He was educated at the common schools and worked on the farm until the outbreak of the war, when he enlisted March 10, 1864, in Co. F, 179th N. Y. Vols. He was in the Army of the Potomac under Gen. Burnside's command, and participated in the engagement at Petersburg, at the mine explosion, Reams's Station, Poplar Spring Grove and Hatcher's Run. He was mustered out June 8, 1865, at Alexandria, Va. He is a member of the G. A. R. post at Penn Yan, N. Y. He is now owner of a fine fruit farm on Bluff Point. He has always been a Republican in politics and has been assessor of this town for a number of years, holding this office at the present time. He married Rosalinda, daughter of John Sheppard, of this town, and they have one child, Nellie G.

Hobart, George W., son of Walter P. and Rachel (Clark) Hobart, was born April 13, 1844, in Potter, N. Y., was educated at the common schools, and enlisted at Penn Yan, August 30, 1862, in the Forty-fourth



Regiment New York Infantry. He participated in the battles of Fredricksburg, Chancellorsville, Rappahannock Station, Mine Run, Gettysburg, the Wilderness and Laurel Hill. At the latter place he was wounded in the head and hip joint on May 8, 1864, and was also wounded in the thigh at Gettysburg, Pa., on July 2, 1863. Mr. Hobart has been supervisor of this town for one term, and for two terms has been commander of Post 93, G. A. R., at Penn Yan, N. Y. He married, October 4, 1869, Sarah Adelaide, daughter of James T. Davis, and their children are Mary Lucile, Grace Aneata, Castella Nette, and Julia. Mr. Hobart is a Republican in politics, and both he and his family are members of the M. E. Church of Yatesville, N. Y. He is one of the successful farmers of Jerusalem.

Hurd, William T., son of Aaron and Lucy (Thomas) Hurd, was born in Reading, N. Y., December 13, 1835. He was educated at the common schools and Dundee Academy. After leaving school he came to Jerusalem and remained a short time. He then went to Watkins, N. Y., and erected a planing-mill and box factory, remaining about three years. Mr. Hurd then returned to this town and purchased a farm of 130 acres in the western part of the town. This he converted into a model farm. In politics Mr. Hurd is a Republican, and has always taken an active part in the affairs of his adopted town, having been supervisor of Jerusalem in the years 1875-76 and 1882. Mr. Hurd is a self made man, and one of sterling integrity. He and his family are members of the M. E. Church of Branchport. He married Phebe, daughter of William P. and Betsey A. (Townsend) Hibbard, a native of this town. Their children were Fred H., who died aged four years; Herbert, who died aged two years; Schuyler H., Gertrude P., William P., and Hattie L. Hurd. The last four are living with their parents.

Kinyoun, Benjamin, son of Elisha and Charlotte (Knickerbocker) Kinyoun, was born February 10, 1822, in Pine Plains, Dutchess County, N. Y. He came to this town in 1843, and settled on Bluff Point, where he has been a successful farmer and fruit grower. He owns 210 acres of highly cultivated land. In politics he is a Republican. He married Lucy H., daughter of John and Lucy (Stanley) Mangas, who was born

in Lenawee County, Michigan, July 28, 1830. Their children were Charles B., Mary E., who died aged twenty-four; Eugene E., Homer L., Eva, who died aged four; Leroy M., Edward F., and John Dorsey.

Larzelere, William B., son of Henry and Rebecca (Durham) Larzelere, was born January 27, 1831, in Jerusalem, N. Y. He was educated at the common schools, and lived with his father until he was twenty-one years of age, when he went to Wisconsin. After returning to his native State, he enlisted in Co. F, One Hundred and Seventy-ninth New York Regiment, which went into the Virginia campaign, and was under command of General Burnside. His company was in the front at the siege of Petersburg, and after three days' fighting and the mine explosion, which occurred July 30, 1864, there were but nine men left of this company, which a few months before had mustered eighty-three men. Mr. Larzelere was at the battles of Cold Harbor, Reams's Station, Va., Poplar Spring Grove, Hatcher's Run, the final taking of Petersburg, and the surrender of Lee's army near Appomattox. He was mustered out June 8, 1865, at Alexandria, Va. Returning to Ontario County, N. Y., he then bought a farm, where he remained ten years. Selling his farm, he removed to Kansas, but meeting with misfortune, he soon returned to his native State, and in 1879 came to Jerusalem again, purchasing a vineyard farm of thirty-two acres. Mr. Larzelere married Sarah A., daughter of Robert P. and Frances (Belknapp) Sheppard, of Italy, N. Y., and their children are Helen M., Florence A. (deceased), Herman G. and Herbert L. (twins), who now reside in Rochester, N. Y.; and Adelia May.

Mace, Jerome B., son of John and Lydia (Tripp) Mace, was born September 29, 1845, Jerome B. being the sixth child. His brothers and sisters were Hiram G., John C., Cyrus (deceased), James R., Leroy and Caroline. Jerome was educated at the common schools, was brought up on the farm and has always followed the farmer's life, in which he has been successful. In politics he is a Republican. January 30, 1876, he married Mary Eva, daughter of Nathaniel G. and Mary (Bitley) Hibbard, of this town, and they have one child, Howard J., born March 30, 1878.

Martin, George W., son of Garret and Laura (Clark) Martin, was born June 6, 1825, in this town, and was educated at the common

schools. He has been a farmer and fruit grower all his life. In politics a Republican, Mr. Martin has been commissioner of highways of this town two terms, 1877-78. He married Emily, daughter of Oren Stebbens, of Potter, N. Y. Their children are E. Clark, Charles E. (deceased), and Oren S.

Merritt, La Fayette, son of John, was born in Dutchess County, N. Y., in 1825, and the same year his father came to the town of Jerusalem, and purchased a large tract of land, converting it into a valuable farm, a portion of which is still in the Merritt family. Of nine children, only one brother, Van Rensselaer, is living, a resident of Missouri, and two sisters, Mrs. Teats and Mrs. Davis, of Penn Yan, are living. In 1859, Mr. Merritt married Hannah Bennett, of Milo. By this marriage there was one son, Elmer, who resides with his mother on the farm. Mr. Merritt was honest, honorable and kind. He had a lively sense of the beautiful and orderly, as one could see by a visit to his farm and fruit orchard. He had first refused to cultivate the grape, because they were converted into wine, but when the market bought them for table use, he began their cultivation. When it was proposed to found a college on the lake, he was one of its enthusiastic supporters. In 1836 he joined the Wesleyan Church, of Penn Yan, and was a member until the church disbanded. Some time afterwards he united with the M. E. Church, of which he was a member when he died.

Miller, John A., son of Smith M. Miller, was born in Poundridge, Westchester County, N. Y., March 9, 1835. When eight years of age, his father moved to Pultney, Steuben County, N. Y. In 1850, John A., came to Branchport, and learned the blacksmith's trade of D. H. Bennett, and has been a resident of the town ever since. He married Elizabeth A. Durham, of this town, and has six children living. He has carried on the blacksmithing business since 1856.

Mills, J. C., M. D., for twenty-five years the leading photographer of Penn Yan, was born in Orange County, in 1823. At an early age his parents moved to Onondaga County, where he entered the Central Medical College, of Syracuse, and graduated from the same in 1849. For fifty-two years in connection with his other business, he was a prominent and successful physician. In 1859 he came to Penn Yan,

and having a knowledge of the daguerrean business, opened a gallery for that purpose, daguerreotypes and ambrotypes being the only pictures made in those days, outside of the large cities. Dr. Mills was the first to introduce photographs to the people of Yates County. He retired from the business in 1882; he last few years of his life being spent in Florida, where he died April 11, 1891.

Paris, Jacob S., son of James, sr., and Nancy (Billington) Paris, was born February 5, 1828, in Palatine, Montgomery County, N. Y., and went to Wheeler, Steuben County, in 1833, remaining there until February, 1845, when he came to Branchport, N. Y. Young Paris was educated at the common schools of that time. He enlisted in Co A, 50th N. Y. Engineer Corps, August 31, 1864, remaining in the service until the close of the war. He was stationed at Washington, D. C., most of the time. He then returned to this town, and has been a dealer in general merchandise, and a carpenter, for about six years. He is at present, general agent for Conklin & Ellsworth, coal merchants, at Branchport, N. Y. In politics he has always been a Republican. He has been a supporter of the Universalist Church at Branchport, N. Y. Mr. Paris married on September 25, 1855, Eliza A., daughter of Simeon Danes, of this town, and they had one child, Fremont, born November 2, 1856, who was drowned January 2, 1872.

Peckins, James, son of Davis and Experience (Pierce) Peckins, was born in Shrewsbury, Mass., in 1800, and later came to this town, settling on a farm. Here he married Matilda, daughter of Edward and Mahaliah Brownell, of this town. She was born in Johnstown, N. Y., in 1804, and with her parents came to this town when twelve years of age. By occupation a farmer, Mr. Peckins was also poormaster of this town for one or two terms. He was a Republican in politics, and he and his family were members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Mr. Peckins died April 11, 1874. His wife is still living on the homestead. Their children were George B., Edward L., Olive L., Benjamin B. (deceased), Sabrian, Mary Amanda (deceased), James B., and Oscar F. (deceased).

Pepper, James, son of William and Mariah (Mee) Pepper, was born in Wymeswold, Leicestershire, England, February 28, 1841. He came



to Benton, N. Y., in 1863, and remained there about four years. He then came to this town, and in 1874 bought 100 acres on Bluff Point, where he has been a successful fruit grower. In politics he is a Republican. His family are members of the M. E. Church at Bluff Point. He married first Mary Joynes, of Nottingham, England, and their children were Annie, who married Cyrus J. Thayer; James H., who married Myrtie E. Cole; Alonzo, Jessie E. and Mabel. Mrs. Pepper died June 20, 1875, and for his second wife Mr. Pepper married Celestia Campbell, of Jerusalem.

Perry, Samuel, son of Amos and Abigail (Clark) Perry, was born in Jerusalem, October 6, 1824, received his education at the common schools and lived with his father until twenty-two years of age, at which time he came into possession of a farm through his father, and since that time has added to his original purchase, until he now owns 103 acres near Penn Yan, making a fine farm. Mr. Perry has taken no active part in politics, though he has nearly always voted the Democratic ticket, the exceptions being when he cast his vote for Lincoln and Grant. He married June 1, 1850, Mary E., daughter of Peter J. Dinehart, of Potter, N. Y. They had one daughter, Ann Eliza, born April 21, 1852, and died aged eleven years and eleven months.

Plaisted, Daniel, jr., son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Perry) Plaisted, was born in Milo, N. Y., June 15, 1857, educated at Penn Yan Academy and remained on the farm with his father until 1879. Young Plaisted came to this town and purchased a fine farm, with vineyards and other fruits. He married December 15, 1879, Ada M., daughter of Charles E. Brown, of Independence, Allegheny Co., N. Y. They have one child, Ernest C., born May 11, 1884.

Purdy, Frank H., son of Isaac and Sarah (Stewart) Purdy, was born in this town, April 19, 1839. He received his education at the common schools and Penn Yan Academy, after which he returned to the farm, where he has been very successful in the raising of fruit, especially grapes, of which he has a fine vineyard on the road from Penn Yan to Branchport. In politics he is a Farmers' Alliance, was elected as the first president of Yates County Farmers' Alliance, re-elected and holds that position at present. Mr. Purdy and wife attend the St. Luke's

Episcopal Church, at Branchport. He married November 3, 1863, Emma C. Husted, of Potter, N. Y.

Purdy, Isaac S., was born in Dutchess County, N. Y., moved with his family to this county in 1827, and settled in the western part of the town of Jerusalem. He married Ann, daughter of Thomas Owen, of Westchester County, N. Y. His son Joseph, was born March 13, 1825, in Dutchess County, N. Y., but came with his parents, when two years old, to this county. He had one brother, Thomas O., and one sister, Sarah A. They remained on that farm about six years, then sold out and removed to the eastern part of the same town in 1833, where they have since resided. Isaac S. Purdy died February 14, 1876, and Ann his wife on April 10, of the same year. Mr. Purdy was educated at the Penn Yan schools and has always been a farmer. He is a Republican in politics, and has been supervisor two terms, 1880-81, and also inspector several times. His family are members of the Baptist Church at Penn Yan. He married Margaret E., daughter of Thomas Bennett, of Benton, N. Y., and their children are Ella; John, who married Jessie Mac Kay, of Penn Yan; Ida G., married William C. Mills, of Chicago; Thomas B. (deceased); Mary C., of Brooklyn; George O.; Ann; Agnes; Isaac Seymour; Charles M.; and Henry Clinton.

Rose, Edward N., son of R. Selden and Frances Theresa (Cammann) Rose, was born in this town May 1, 1856, was educated at the common schools of the town, and has always been a Democrat in politics. He has held the office of supervisor two terms and town clerk one term, although the town is Republican by a large majority. Mr. Rose lives with his mother on the old homestead.

Sanderson, John, son of James and Mary Ann (Williams) Sanderson, was born in County Cavan, Ireland, July 6, 1838, and came to this country April 30, 1859, settling in Bath, N. Y. He enlisted in August 1862, in the 161st N. Y. Regt., and participated in the following engagements: Store Plains, Port Hudson, Donaldsonville, Sabine Pass, Sabine Cross-Roads, Pleasant Hill, Spanish Fort and Mobile. During his last year in the army he was made sergeant-major of the regiment and never missed a day's duty during his entire service. He received his discharge September 20, 1865. He then came to this town and

purchased a vineyard of fifteen acres on the west branch of Keuka Lake, which he has brought to a fine state of cultivation. He married Eliza, daughter of Lewis Longwell, of Urbana, N. Y., and their children were as follows: James B., Oliver R., and Edward L. His first wife died April 14, 1875, and he married, secondly, Emily L. Razy, of this town, and by this union there are five children, Marion, Ida J., Margaret, Anna R., and John R.

Shearman, Urial W., son of Bartleson and Hannah (Potter) Shearman, was born in this town May 7, 1847. He had one sister, Josephine (deceased), who married Charles E. Hewey, and one brother, Charles S., who died aged nine years. Mr. Shearman has always been Republican in politics. He resides on the old homestead in what is known as "Shearman's Hollow". He married first, Frances Watkins, by whom he had one child, Willie A. He married second, Harriet Corey, of this Town.

Sherwood, Cyrus, son of Daniel and Jane (Chase) Sherwood, was born June 26, 1827, in this town, was educated at the common schools. When a young man he was engaged in getting out heavy timber for ship building, following that occupation for about twenty-seven years. He enlisted in August, 1862, in Co. A, 126th Regt. N. Y. Vols., and went to Harper's Ferry, Va., where he was captured and sent to Chicago, but was soon exchanged and then went to Union Mills, Va., and was mustered out at Bailey's Cross Roads, Va. Returning thence to this town, he has been a farmer ever since. He is a Republican in politics. He married Jane, daughter of Jesse C. Grant, of Thurston, Steuben County, N. Y., in 1851. Their children are Frances L., who married Edgar E. Davis; Chapman D., who married Maggie S., daughter of Matthew Henderson, they have one son, James H. Sherwood, born July 10, 1886; Carrie E. (deceased), who married Frank L. Johnson, by whom he had one child, Cyrus Johnson.

Sill, Henry Rose, son of Samuel and Susan (Rose) Sill, was born in Geneva, N. Y. His mother died when he was four years of age, and his uncle, Henry Rose, of this town, adopted and educated him at Geneva, N. Y. Mr. Sill then returned and remained on the farm with his uncle until Mr. Rose died. Mr. Sill now owns the old homestead,

which is one of the finest farms in Jerusalem, and is stocked with fine graded horses and cattle. He is a Republican, was elected supervisor two terms, 1889 and 1890, and has always taken an active part in the affairs of this town. He is a member of Milo Lodge F. A. M., of Penn Yan, N. Y. May 5, 1880, he married Mary Ida, daughter of Charles Stebbins, of Branchport, N. Y., and their children are Henry Rose, Elizabeth Nelson, and Mary Cornelia. Mr. Sill and his family are members of St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Branchport, N. Y.

Sisson, Jonathan, one of the sons of George Sisson, of the Friend's society, was a cavalry soldier under Aaron Remer, in the War of 1812, for which he received a warrant of 160 acres of land. He married Catharine Vosbiner, of Milo. In 1827 they removed to Jerusalem, and both died in 1857, he at the age of seventy-three and his wife aged seventy. Their children were William, George, Joshua, David, Harrison and Bethany. William married Melissa, daughter of William Genung; George is a resident of Addison, N. Y.; Joshua died in 1867, unmarried, at the age of forty six; David married Charlotte, daughter of Zachariah Coons, of Jerusalem. He died in California in 1850, leaving one daughter, Bethany, who married James A. Cole, and has two children, Fred G. and Glennis B. Harrison Sisson, born in 1829, married in 1852, Charlotte, widow of his brother David. They have one son, David H., who married Sarah P. Miller, and has four children, Jephtha P., Irene M., Harry G. and Clarence D.

Smith, Eberle E., son of Morgan and Annis (Johnson) Smith, was born May 5, 1843, at Penn Yan, N. Y., was educated at the common schools, and lived with his father until about twenty-four years of age. His father, Morgan Smith, came to Jerusalem and purchased a farm of 168 acres in the western part of the town, when Eberle was ten years of age. Twenty-four years ago the latter bought the farm of 200 acres of Chester Stoddard (now deceased). In 1881 he bought the farm of 168 acres of his father, near his first purchase, but not joining, making 368 acres. Mr. Smith has always been a Republican in politics, and he is now a member of the Farmers' Alliance. While not a member of any religious denomination, both he and his family attend the Baptist Church at Italy Hill. October 17, 1867, he married Alice A., daughter of Chester Stoddard, of this town. Their children are Chester M., Grace S., Edna, and Edwin and Eben (twins), the latter deceased.



Squier, Nat, son of Ezra and Helen (Kennedy) Squier, was born December 10, 1859, in Italy, N. Y., was educated at the common schools and at Franklin Academy, at Prattsburg, N. Y. Soon after finishing his education he began teaching school, and for three years he has been principal of Branchport School. He also owns a fine fruit farm at Larzelere Corners, in this town. He is a Prohibitionist in politics. Mr. Squier married Margaret A., daughter of Perry and Jane (Munger) Adams, of this town, and they have four children: Perry Albert, Lloyd, Ezra, and Henry.

Stever, Joseph G., son of James and Desire (Goodsell) Stever, was born May 4, 1842, in this town, was educated at the district schools and under the tutorship of Prof. N. W. Ayer, of Penn Yan, N. Y. After leaving school he went on to the farm and has been very successful in that industry. In politics he is a Democrat. He married Mary, daughter of Andrew Coryell, of Pultney, N. Y., March 27, 1872. Mrs. Stever is a member of the Presbyterian Church of Branchport, N. Y.

Stever, Leonard, son of James and Desire (Goodsell) Stever, was born March 24, 1831, in Columbia County, N. Y., and came to this town when eighteen months old. He was educated in the district schools and Franklin Academy at Prattsburgh, N. Y. He lived with his father until twenty-four years of age, then went to Pultney, Steuben County, N. Y., and purchased a farm for himself, remaining there two years, then traded his farm for one in the southern part of this town and after residing there two years sold this farm. Most of his time up to the year 1868 was spent on the Samuel S. Ellsworth farm until the purchase of the farm where he now lives, which is in a fine state of cultivation. He is a Democrat in politics. Both he and his family are members of the Universalist Church of Branchport, N. Y. He married Susan, daughter of Robert and Susan (Wagener) Miller, of Pultney, N. Y., and their children are Laura Jane, born November 15, 1856, married Jasper C. Shull, of Branchport; Elbert Miller Stever, born March 31, 1864, married Lena E. Paris, October 30, 1889, and in the mercantile business with his father-in-law, in Branchport; Fred, born July 28, 1866, lives with his parents.

Sturdevant, Harlan Page, son of Joseph G. and Rebecca (Mahan) Sturdevant, was born March 1, 1838, in Prattsburgh, N. Y., was educated

at the common schools and Prattsburgh Academy and was brought up on a farm, learning the lumber business with his father. When the war broke out he enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and First Regiment New York Infantry, and went on garrison duty at Washington, D. C. He was with General Kearney's Division in the Virginia campaign, and was captured at Chancellorsville, and kept about ten days; was exchanged and went back to his regiment, but was captured a second time June 1, 1864, and taken to Andersonville and Millen, where he was held prisoner until November 20. His term of enlistment had expired during his imprisonment, and he was mustered out in New York City, January 30, 1864. He then came home and for occupation purchased an interest in the vineyard lands on the east side of Bluff Point, with G. W. Nichols and Rev. Stephen Vorhis, owning now two-thirds of this beautiful vineyard, which comprises fifty-two acres. Mr. Sturdevant is a member of the G. A. R. at Pultney, N. Y. He and his family are members of the Baptist Church of Wayne, N. Y. February 15, 1886, he married Ella A. Williams, a widow and daughter of Anson Hill. She had one child by her first husband, Guy Williams, and by her second marriage has a daughter, Celia A. Sturdevant.

Timmerman, Ransford C., son of Jonas and Catharine (Cramer) Timmerman, was born April 15, 1840, at St. Johnsville, Herkimer County, N. Y. In 1849 he went to Jasper, Steuben County, N. Y., and was educated at the district schools of that place. He enlisted at Rome, N. Y., in Company I, Eighty-first Regiment New York Volunteers, on November 28, 1861, and went into the army of the Potomac with Gen. George B. McClellan in command. Participated in the Peninsular campaign, was taken sick at Yorktown, recovered and rejoined the regiment on McClellan's retreat from Fair Oaks. From there he went into South Carolina, under command of General Hunter, to join in the siege of Charleston, thence back to Newbern, N. C., where he took part in the Ternton raid, N. C., and the battle at Northwest Landing, Va. While there he re-enlisted for three years or until the close of the war in the same company and regiment. For a short time afterwards he was in the army of the James under General Butler, but was transferred, and was in the battle of Cold Harbor, Va., and on June 3, 1864, he lost his left arm. He was then sent to the hospital at Alexandria, Va., and

from there to Fort Schuyler, East River, New York city, where he was mustered out October 26, 1864. He afterward spent one year in the quartermaster's department at Elmira. He came to this town in 1865 and has been engaged in farming and fruit growing. In politics he is a Republican. He is a member of Henry C. Lyon Post, No. 535, G. A. R. At Pultney, N. Y., November 7, 1865, he married Agnes E., daughter of John Mitchell, of Branchport, N. Y., and their children are Lee M. (deceased), Grace A. and Harold M.

Todd, Benajah, son of Meli and Lydia (Ovenshire) Todd, was born March 17, 1829, in Barrington, N. Y. One year later he came to this town with his parents. He was educated at the common schools and has been a farmer all his life. In politics he was a Republican. He and his family were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Branchport, and he was one of the trustees for many years. June 10, 1849, he married Ann Jennette, daughter of Gilbert Lamb, and they had one daughter, Emma A., who married Phineas Tyler, of Branchport, a soldier in the late Rebellion, who lost an arm at the battle of the Wilderness. They had one adopted son, Charles H. Beaden Todd, who married Lucinda Shepard, and also a granddaughter, Anna M. Tyler, whom they reared. She married John L. Lafler, and they reside on the farm with Mrs. Todd. Benajah Todd died May 2, 1885.

Townsend, Charles E., son of Charles J. and Catherine (Castner) Townsend, was born April 9, 1848, in Torrey, and received his education in the common schools of the town. He enlisted in the general service of the United States at Buffalo, N. Y., February 7, 1866, and went to Richmond, Va., where he was in the paymaster's service for about eighteen months. He then went to Mississippi and was mustered out at Grenada, that State, February 7, 1869. He returned to this county and was appointed keeper of the Yates County almshouse, which position he filled at different times for nine years and is the present incumbent. In politics he is a Republican. He married February 22, 1871, Nancy E., daughter of W. J. Smith, of Dresden, N. Y., and their children are Maude E., Fred W. and Ada M., who died aged fifteen.

Townsend, Joseph R., was born in Jerusalem, Ontario County, N. Y., in the year 1815. In the year 1843 he united in marriage with Miss

Eliza Runner, of Jerusalem, Yates County, N. Y. By this union three children were born to them. The only surviving child is J. Wilbur, who was born March 24, 1848. In the year of 1871 he united in marriage with Miss Delight C. Andrus, of Jerusalem, Yates County, N. Y., born March 4, 1851. By this union five children were born to them, viz.: Hermon R., born in 1872; Florence E. and Flora L., born in 1875; Myrtie A., born in 1877, and Addie C., born in 1879. In the year 1888 death entered the home of Mr. Townsend, tearing from his embrace his companion with whom he had commenced the voyage of life seventeen years before. Mrs. Townsend was deeply mourned, not only by her family, but also by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Branchport, a consistent Christian, a devoted wife, and loving mother. In 1890 Mr. Townsend married Belle, sister of his former wife. Belle was born in 1857; she is a consistent Christian, a member of the Methodist Church at Branchport. She is a devoted wife, a kind and affectionate mother; one child born to them who died in infancy. Mr. Townsend owns a fine farm of 150 acres. The family are members of the M. E. Church of Branchport.

Van Tuyl, William F., son of Silas H. and Mariah F. (Randolph) Van Tuyl, was born October 23, 1838, was educated at the common schools and select school in Penn Yan, under the tutorship of Prof. N. W. Ayer, and after finishing his education he taught school in different places for about fifteen years. He was school commissioner of Yates County from 1876 to 1882. Mr. Van Tuyl was one of the first to develop the grape product, planting his vineyard in 1861 on Lake Keuka, and he has lived to see it one of the leading industries of the county. Mr. Van Tuyl is a Republican in politics. In the year 1867 he married Miss Sarah M. Dean, and their children are J. Ernest and Nellie G. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Watkins, John E., son of Abraham and Mary (Wilcox) Watkins, was born in Gorham, Ontario County, N. Y., November 13, 1851, was educated at the district schools, except one term at the Penn Yan Academy. His father came to this town in the spring of 1853, and bought a farm in the western part of the town, which John E. now owns. He has



always affiliated with the Republican party. He has served four years as justice of the peace, one term as supervisor of Jerusalem, and is now superintendent of the poor of Yates County. He married Emma, daughter of Loren Thomas, of this town, and they have four children, Charles M., Edward T., Mina S. and Mary E., all living at home.

Wheeler, Philip, jr., was born in Jerusalem, N. Y., March 5, 1845, and is the oldest son in a family of six children of Philip and Maria (Van Gelder) Wheeler. His father was a native of Columbia County, N. Y., his mother was a native of Sullivan County, N. Y., and his other children were Charles, who died aged nineteen; Mary, wife of Earl Allen, of Filmore, N. Y.; Jane, wife of Frank Dickens, of Dalton, N. Y.; George, a resident of Jerusalem; and Gertrude, wife of George H. Mosher, of Oakland, N. Y. Mr. Wheeler received only a common school education and at the age of fifteen years was apprenticed to learn the trade of carpenter. He has during his life followed that trade in connection with contracting for buildings. He married Sarah M., daughter of Henry and Emily (Tyler) Walker. They have two children, viz.: Charles Henry, a graduate of Syracuse University, and Nellie F. In politics a Republican, he has served as highway commissioner for a number of terms.

Wightman, J. C., M.D., son of James W. and Esther A. (Cole) Wightman, was born July 16, 1829, at Rushville, Ontario County, N. Y. He began his education at the district schools and Rushville Academy, from there he went to the Madison University, remaining one year, and at Lima Seminary one year. He then had a private tutor, Prof. Boyd, from Edinboro, Scotland. After that he went to the American Medical College of Cincinnati, and at the end of three years graduated from that institution, after that he attended different hospitals, trying to learn all he could of his profession, also one year at the Geneva Medical College, N. Y. The doctor came to Branchport in 1857 and began the practice of his profession, and has lived here ever since, where he has successfully built up a large practice. February 20, 1857, he married Elizabeth M., daughter of Simon S. Merrill, of Rushville, N. Y. Their children are Myrtie Maud, born November 28, 1857, who married Frank Botsford. She died June 26, 1890; Fannie, born August 11, 1864, married Edwin E. Evans; Merrill J., born January 20, 1866, died May 13, 1875.

Williams, Hosea, son of Prince and Luna Williams, was born in Hartford, Conn., July 20, 1792, whence they moved to Exeter, N. Y., when he was a lad and where he married Sally Lea Wescott. She was born August 9, 1793, the date of her marriage being February 11, 1819. They had one child, Emily, who married James Hartshorn. Mrs. Williams died January 13, 1823, and he married second, on February 26, 1824, Hiley Hartshorn, born November 26, 1799, moving to Yates County in 1834, and to the farm whereon he died on the 9th of November, 1851, and where also Mrs. Williams died November 26, 1879. The children by this marriage were as follows: Sarah, born January 5, 1826, died March 8, 1845; Adaline, born December 6, 1828, died October 8, 1830; James, born March 3, 1831; Editha, born August 2, 1833, died November 9, 1860; Lucy, born December 10, 1835, died August 13, 1854; Sherman, born June 16, 1838, married Salena Abbott on June 16, 1879, and they have one son, Abbott Clark; Abbie, born July 10, 1845. James and his sister Abbie live on the old homestead, neither being married, and they have a model farm of 122 acres, overlooking Keuka Lake. Mr. and Miss Williams are not members of any church, but are ever ready to help the needy and deserving. In politics Mr. Williams has voted with the Prohibitionists for the last ten years, as he is a firm believer in temperance in all things. William H. Hartshorn had one son, William Lloyd Garrison Hartshorn, born December 18, 1851, died August 26, 1883, his life having been passed at his home in the city of Flint, Mich.

#### TOWN OF TORREY.

Birkett, Henry, son of Thomas, was born in Cumberland, England, June 10, 1827, where he spent the first twenty years of his life. His energy and activity impelled him to emigrate to America at that early age. December 21, 1859, he married Matilda, daughter of William Deisher, of Waterloo, N. Y., and made his first permanent residence on a farm in the town of Torrey. He had previously owned a share in the flouring mills at Dresden. After three years' experience at farming, which occupation was not congenial to his tastes, he sold the farm, and in company with his nephew, Nathaniel Willis, again purchased the

flouring mills. After a short term of partnership he purchased Mr. Willis's interest and conducted the business alone to the close of his life. He was also an extensive dealer in lumber. He conducted a large business in his mills, and a much larger business in grain. He was a quick and rapid thinker, and his judgment was seldom at fault. He was kind and courteous and in his large dealings he had an extensive acquaintance with leading business men, who counted his death as a public calamity. He suffered losses by fire and otherwise, but left his family a liberal competence. His name always headed the lists in the cause of charity and benevolence. He was in sympathy with the Episcopal Church, and was an active and influential Free Mason. He died May 24, 1884. Mr. and Mrs. Birkett had five children, who are now living, and two (twins) who died in infancy. William M. Birkett, oldest son of Henry Birkett, was born in Dresden, June 11, 1861, and was educated in his father's business. At his father's death, he and his brother, Clarence T., conducted the business for the estate until 1886. Then these brothers conducted the business the ensuing year (1887), with the firm name of Henry Birkett's Sons. In the summer of 1887 the present firm of Birkett Bros. & Co. was organized. They are conducting a large milling business, are extensive dealers in grain, and also wholesale and retail dealers in lumber of all kinds. In connection with the flouring mills they have a large planing and lumber dressing mill. William M. Birkett is the only member of the firm who resides in Dresden, and the business is under his supervision. He is a man of energy and a reliable citizen. November 26, 1884, he married Clara Jessup, of Penn Yan, N. Y., and owns a fine residence on Seneca street.

Botsford, W. H., M.D., was born in Branchport, January, 28, 1865. He began the study of medicine with Dr. J. C. Wightman, of Branchport, continuing with him one year. He then studied for two years in the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and for two years in the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Baltimore, from which he graduated in 1887. He now enjoys a lucrative practice.

Brown, James, a native of Scotland, emigrated to America with his parents in his boyhood. The family first settled in Livingston County. In 1803 or 1804 James purchased a farm in the town of Benton, built him a log cabin, and soon after married Mary Barnes, of Benton. He

died on the place in 1818. The widow survived until 1845. They reared five sons and two daughters. Alexander, the youngest, succeeded his father on the homestead, married Elizabeth Wilkie, and died in 1859. His widow now resides in Geneva. John W. Brown, born October 13, 1809, remained with his parents until he attained his majority. He was a natural mechanic and commenced his business life as a carpenter and builder. Many of the fine residences in Benton and Torrey are specimens of his skill. He married Eliza A. Meeker, of Benton, and resided near Bellona until 1878, when he removed to Michigan, where he died in 1888. His wife died January 1, 1858. They had nine children, four daughters and five sons. Only one of the five sons resides in Yates, William, born August 16, 1833. July 4, 1855, he married Elizabeth Mittower, and in January, 1859, removed to the homestead of his wife's father. Mr. Brown is a Democrat and a worthy and reliable citizen. He is a member of Seneca Lodge No. 308, F and A. M., and is now serving his eleventh year as Worthy Master.

Brundage, Dr. George W., was born September 15, 1822, at Lodi, Seneca County, N. Y., and studied medicine with Dr. Alfred Sears, of Townsend. He graduated from the Geneva Medical College in 1846, and settled in Dresden in 1847, where he has practiced his profession ever since. He is a member of the Yates County Medical Society, also the Central New York Society. He has been a resident of Dresden several years. He married Caroline L., daughter of William Goundry, and they have one child, Caleb D., who is engaged in the mercantile business. Dr. Brundage joined the Presbyterian Church in 1851, of which church he has been an elder since 1854.

Clark, James M., was born March 19, 1834, in Milo (now a part of Torrey), was reared a farmer and received a good education at Starkey Seminary. At the age of twenty-two he purchased the farm of 260 acres on which stood the log meeting-house of the Friends, erected in 1790. Here he resided twenty-one years. He also practiced land surveying. In 1878 he removed to Dresden, where he now resides, being engaged as carpenter and builder. His townsmen elected him supervisor of Torrey in 1872 and again in 1874. He has also served as justice of the peace. March 18, 1874, he married Nancy A. Swarthout, of



Milo, and they have a son, A. J., born March 20, 1875, and a daughter, May, born May 5, 1877.

Dains, Cornelius A., son of Daniel W. and Nancy Dains, was born in the town of Milo, July 1, 1856, received a common school education. In 1859 his parents removed to Dresden, where he has always resided. In 1875, when nineteen years of age, he was postmaster at Dresden, under Grant's administration, and held that office until December 1, 1885. He was re-appointed under President Harrison, June 12, 1889, which position he has held since. In 1886 he married Belle Alden, of Wellsville, Allegany County, N. Y. He was town clerk of Torrey nine years, and has been in mercantile business since 1875. He has one child, Clement Alden, born April 9, 1887.

Dains, George Y., son of Jesse, who came to this county with his father Jesse, among the first settlers, from Connecticut. George Y. was born December 16, 1810, in the town of Milo, when it belonged to Ontario County. He has always been a resident of the county. In 1840 he married Eliza Headley, daughter of Samuel, and settled in the town of Milo. They resided here until 1884, when they left the farm and moved to Dresden. Their four children were Harriet E., Mary, Stephen C., and Theron S., all living. Mary, who resides in Ontario County, town of Gorham, is the wife of John W. Washburn. Harriet E. married Jerome Penney and resides in Reading, Schuyler County. Samuel Headley, came to Milo from Morris County, N. J., about 1821. He was a blacksmith and farmer, and had a family of six children. The only child living is Eliza, wife of George Y. Dains, residing in Dresden. Mr. Headley died in 1847 or 1848, aged eighty-four years. His wife died eighteen months previous, aged seventy-five. They died on the farm where they first settled, and both were members of the Free Will Baptist Church.

Denniston, Daniel, was born February 3, 1758, and died February 3, 1824, aged sixty-six years. Maj. Daniel Denniston served in the Revolutionary war as major for seven years and died in New York city. He married Elizabeth Keinstead, a Holland Dutch lady of rank, and a cousin to the queen of Holland. The marriage certificate of Elizabeth Keinstead, widow of Maj. Daniel Denniston, is in the war department at Washington. She was born May 14, 1767, and died May 8, 1861,

aged ninety-four. She was the mother of fourteen children, of whom Mrs. Ellen Bush, of Geneva, was the youngest. All are now deceased. Edward, the eleventh child, was born on Long Island, in 1800. When fourteen years of age he came to Western New York, located near Geneva, and learned the carpenter's trade, which he pursued for a number of years. He then purchased a farm on City Hill where he resided until his death, June 18, 1875. About 1826 he married Mary, daughter of Nicholas Jones, of Benton, and they had eight children, seven of whom are living. The widow and mother still survives, aged eighty-five years, and resides with her youngest son, Johnson J. Denniston, in Penn Yan. Perry Denniston, the oldest son, born in Seneca, N. Y., September 15, 1831, was a successful farmer, until he entered the mercantile business in Dresden, N. Y., in 1871, which he pursued until 1887. March 25, 1859, Mr. Denniston married Anna M. Meek, daughter of Charles Meek, of Dresden. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are liberal contributors to its financial interests.

Denniston, Johnson J., son of Edward Denniston, was born in Torrey, July 12, 1845, spent his boyhood on his father's farm, and received a business education in Eastman's College, at Poughkeepsie. In 1864, at the request of his parents, he took charge of his father's farm and at the latter's death in 1875, he purchased the homestead of the heirs. Mr. Denniston is a prominent man in town affairs. He held the position of supervisor in 1888 and again in 1889 and served as highway commissioner in 1886. He is a regular attendant at the Presbyterian Church, of which his wife is a member. December 12, 1875, he married Anna A. Dunlap, of Victor, Ontario County, N. Y. They have two daughters, Maud D. and A. Lulu.

Downey, Robert, came to Torrey in 1800, from Antrim, Pa., and settled on the farm now owned by his son David. He married Rachel Sutherland, and died October 27, 1832, aged sixty eight years. His wife died December 13, 1832, aged fifty-six years. They had eight children, four sons and four daughters, viz.: William, David, Eleanor, Jane, Robert, John, Elizabeth, and Mary. David Downey, son of Robert, who is the sole survivor, was born March 10, 1803, and has always resided on the farm. He married Caroline Norman, and had four

children, Robert N., William W., George S., and David, jr. William died in 1861. David has always been a farmer, and held the office of assessor six years. His wife died January 19, 1870. Mr. Downey is an elder in the Presbyterian Church, of which he has been a member for many years. David Downey, jr., was born on the Downey farm, February 13, 1840, where he has always resided. He married Sarah A. Wheeler, daughter of Sumner Wheeler, and has had seven children, five of whom survive. He is a farmer and grape grower, of which he has four acres.

Dox, Abraham, born in Albany, N. Y., June 7, 1777, was reared a merchant. At the age of fourteen years he entered the store of Dudley Walsh, of Albany, and remained there until 1804, when he was entrusted with the management of a branch store in Geneva, N. Y. Soon after he bought the store of Mr. Walsh and conducted the business alone until 1824, when he removed to Benton, now a part of Torrey, and purchased a flouring-mill, clothing-mill and tannery. In 1826 his mills were burned, and he gave his attention to agricultural pursuits until his death, in August, 1862. He was a representative in the State legislature in 1812. The same year he organized and drilled a company of 100 men at his expense, took them to the front and was obliged to leave them to attend the legislature. He was an old line Whig.

Hazard Family, The.—The Hazard family in America is of Welsh origin, and descended from Thomas Hazard who emigrated from Wales in 1769, and settled in Rhode Island. Jonathan J. Hazard, jr., who was the progenitor of the Hazards of Yates County, was the fifth generation from Thomas Hazard. He served in the Revolutionary war and was taken prisoner by the enemy. He was a sea captain later in life and died on the ocean. His wife was Tacy Burdick. His son, George V. Hazard, married Marian, daughter of John, and a relative of Judge William Potter. They settled on a farm on City Hill, about 1800, and were in the Friend's settlement. He eventually died at the age of sixty-five years, at Dresden. His son, Jonathan, married Elouissetta F., daughter of Russel Brown, a pioneer of Torrey. He was a farmer and met his death while bathing in the canal. Their children were George R., Adaline A., and Harriet M. George R. Hazard, born June 18, 1841, married Gertrude Teft, of Torrey, and is now the genial

proprietor of Dresden Hotel, situated on the site of the first hotel erected in the village of Dresden.

Hurley, Daniel B., was born in Reading, Schuyler County, N. Y., March 14, 1842. August 10, 1862, he enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Forty-first New York Infantry, and was honorably discharged as corporal June 24, 1865, at the close of the war. He was with General Sherman from Chattanooga to Savannah, and participated in over twenty engagements. He resides in a pleasant home in the village of Dresden, where he has lived for the past twenty-five years. January 10, 1866, he married Hannah Petrie, of Dix, Schuyler County, and they have one daughter, Carrie.

Legg, Joshua, came to Torrey from Medway, Mass., in 1773, and settled on the farm now owned by his grandson, Caleb J. Legg. Joshua came to this county in company with John Plimpton. They had four yoke of oxen and two wagons. The road was through a wilderness, and they were the first settlers in the town of Torrey. Joshua had eight children, and all resided and died in this county. Carlton Legg, son of Joshua, was born on the farm and married Rachel Plimpton, by whom he had three children, Moses A., Aaron E., and Caleb J., who was born May 18, 1806, and has always resided on the homestead farm. He married Elizabeth Henderson, daughter of Richmond Henderson, and they have had six children, four of whom now survive. Caleb Legg was for eighteen years extensively engaged in buying and selling grain and farming. He was one of the charter members of the Dresden Masonic Lodge, was several times elected justice of the peace, and held the office of side judge several terms. Both he and his wife are hale and hearty, and have lived together since December 25, 1828. Three children, Henderson, Nelson and Charles reside in Torrey; Henrietta, wife of Marvin Kipp, resides in Benton. Caleb Legg was the inventor of Legg's corn husker and sheller, which is now used all over the United States.

Meek, Charles, son of James and Mary A. (Gillhofun) Meek, was born in Lodi, Seneca County, N. Y., June 23, 1809, and came with his parents to Milo, now in Torrey, in 1810. He was reared a farmer, and taught to work. He received a common school education, and began life for himself about the age of twenty-one. He first purchased ten



acres of land adjoining the homestead, paid for it, and soon after purchased 100 acres off his father's farm. His father died about 1835 and he then bought the remainder of the homestead (fifty acres) of the heirs. He made this his home until about 1856, when he purchased two other farms, and on them he erected a fine set of buildings, and removed to it. He still owns 300 acres of excellent land. In 1864 he removed to his elegant home in Dresden, and to secure an investment became the proprietor of a general store, which he conducted the ensuing six years. Mr. Meek has been a busy man, and a man of sterling integrity, who by his financial ability has amassed a fine fortune. He has been a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for nearly three score years, and has been for years its efficient trustee and steward. January 26, 1832, he married Diana Travis, of Milo. They had eight children. Those now living are George Meek, a farmer in Milo; Susan E. (Mrs. D. C. Denniston), whose husband is a merchant in Dresden; Ann F. (Mrs. Perry Denniston), whose husband was late a merchant and farmer residing in Dresden; Mrs. Jennie M. Jones, who is residing with her father, and Theodore H. Meek, a farmer living in Cayuga County, N. Y.

Mittower, John, came to Torrey from Maryland in 1801, settling in the north part of the town on the lake road. There he had a family of five children, three sons, Andrew, John and Abram; and two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret. Andrew moved to Ohio. John and Abram reside on the homestead. Abram married Catharine Merial, by whom he had seven children. He died August 8, 1846, and his wife on May 4, 1876. Three of the children are living, viz.: Mary A., wife of John Bachman, who resides in Michigan; Elizabeth, wife of William Brown, who resides in Torrey; and George. The latter was born December 21, 1826, and married Sarah E. Thompson, by whom he had two children, Aaron G. and Alfred J., both of whom reside in Torrey. George Mittower has been a carpenter and joiner, and held the office of constable three years. He has always resided in Torrey. John Mittower, jr., was drafted and went to Buffalo in 1812. John, sr., died in October, 1817. Nancy Mittower, daughter of John, married Clinton King, and had one child, Libbie, wife of Charles A. Smith. Clinton King died November 9, 1879. His wife died October 11, 1875.

Charles A. Smith, son of Albert L., was born April 10, 1856, and has been a resident of Torrey since 1863.

Mittower, Martin, son of Abram, was born in Torrey, and married Susan Norman. They had seven children. Mr. Mittower died in 1868, and his wife in 1874. Five of the children are living, the only one residing in Torrey being S. Dudley, who was born near the old homestead, July 16, 1848, and has always resided in Torrey. He married Irene C., daughter of Zera Swarthout, by whom he has two children, Frank D. and F. Mary. He is a farmer and has fifty acres on Seneca Lake.

Mittower, Samuel, son of Abram, was born in 1828. He married Mary A. Vandevender, and had three children, Sarah and Della (both deceased), and Harvey W., who resides on the homestead. The latter married Helena Tanner, and has two children, Wendell and Mary. He is a fruit grower. His father, Samuel, died in November, 1880, and his mother in 1864.

Norman, Solomon, born February 8, 1761, in Cleveland, Yorkshire, Eng., came to America in early manhood. He located first at Geneva, where he was engaged as overseer of a gang of slaves. In 1803 he purchased of William Spring, of Northumberland County, Pa., the Norman homestead at three dollars per acre; now owned by his grandson, Amos A. Norman. December 7, 1806, he married Susanna Charles, of Geneva. He was a gentleman of the old school, well educated, held town offices, and the invention of the first grain drill is attributed to him. He remained on this farm until about 1840 when he went to Illinois, where he died May 1, 1846. Mrs. Norman died July 18, 1826. They were the parents of twelve children. His youngest child, Harvey W. Norman, was born February 18, 1825, and succeeded his father on this homestead. He was prominent in the Presbyterian Church and an F. and A. M. He was a Republican, holding the office of supervisor and other town offices. November 12, 1846, he married Nancy A. Van Deventer, who was born September 9, 1825. He died July 21, 1879. Their children were Minard A., born September 3, 1848, married Hattie M. Hazard, of Torrey, in 1867, was a farmer and mason, and died May 9, 1883; and Amos A., born July 1, 1850. Amos A.

Norman is a farmer and fruit grower on the homestead. He is a prominent Republican and has been honored with several town offices, including supervisor. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and has been many years worshipful master of Seneca Lodge, No. 308. He has been twice married; March 18, 1875, he married Olive A. Brown, who died January 13, 1876. They had one child, deceased. February 6, 1878, he married Mary E. Marlow, to whom four children have been born, viz.: Harry W., born April 11, 1880; Maud A., born September 28, 1881; William A., born December 31, 1882; and Stephen D., born September 2, 1884.

Olmstead, George M., son of Francis, was born December 16, 1831, at Adams Basin, N. Y., in 1832. His father moved to Attica, N. Y., where he resided until 1852, when he moved to the town of Torrey, and settled on the town line between that town and Benton, where he and his wife died in 1872. Four of their eight children are living. Elizabeth J. (Mrs. Levi Black), George M., and Edward D., who reside in Penn Yan, and Henry F., who resides in Evanston, Ill. George P. carried on farming with his father until the death of the latter in 1872. The son now owns the homestead. He has never married.

Patteson, William M., son of William and Jane (Sheppard) Patteson, and grandson of Charles C. Sheppard, of Penn Yan, and Edward Patteson, of Philadelphia, was born in Galva, Henry County, Ill., April 7, 1863. He received his education at Phillips Academy, and early engaged in agriculture and fruit growing. Mr. Patteson married Cornelia S. Fehrmann, of Plainfield, N. J., April 21, 1886. They have one daughter, Louise M., born July 30, 1887, and one son, William Sheppard, born June 30, 1890.

Prosser, John, son of David, and a native of Wales, immigrated to America when quite young. They settled first in New Jersey but finally came to Yates County. John married Permelia Conklin, and settled in Dresden. He followed the trade of carpenter and joiner, and died in 1834, leaving a widow and four sons. Mrs. Prosser became the wife of John A. McLean, and died at the age of seventy years. David Prosser, oldest son of John, married and removed to Montana, where he now resides, and has four sons and a daughter. Albert G. and An-

drew J. (twins), sons of John Prosser, born April 11, 1824, and are the only members of the family residing in Yates County. Albert G. Prosser married Temma Vandeventer, in October, 1848. Mr. Prosser is a dealer in coal, wood, lime and salt, and is also with S. D. Graves, proprietor of a vineyard. Mr. Prosser is a highly respected citizen and has served his town as assessor and collector. He had an adopted daughter, the child of the deceased sister of Mrs. Prosser, whom they took into their family at the age of eighteen months. She became the wife of Robert S. Frink, of Auburn, and died June 1, 1890.

Remer, John S., son of Abraham V., was born in Torrey, September 26, 1836. He married Mary Woolever, of Torrey, by whom he had two children, Hettie and Louie. His wife died in 1881, and he married second, Hattie, widow of Myndart Norman. Mr. Remer has been engaged in milling business since nineteen years of age, and has been miller at Dresden Mills, since 1866. He began his trade on March 31, 1856, in this mill with Amos C. Leach.

Reynolds, William, came to Yates County, from Orange County, N. Y., some time before 1812. He was a blacksmith. In 1812 he enlisted in the army as a musician and died in the service. He married Miss Sutherland, who was the mother of one son, Jesse, and a daughter, Polly. Jesse Reynolds, born about 1804, at an early age worked out on a farm. At the age of about twenty years he engaged with Judge Samuel S. Ellsworth in the distilling business, continuing in this occupation for some ten or twelve years, when he became a farmer. He married Cynthia Carroll, of Dutchess County, and they had twelve children, eight of whom grew to maturity. Four are residing in Yates County. James F. Reynolds, born in Jerusalem, January 9, 1838, has spent a large part of his life in teaching. He is now a carpenter; has served as justice of the peace, and at present holds the office of justice of sessions of Yates County Courts. January 30, 1862, he married Harriet P., daughter of Peter and Harriet Ayres, of Milo. They have had four children: George Fred, Nellie M., and Wilbert and Wilmer (twins).

Speelman, David, a native of Maryland, came to the town of Seneca, Ontario County, N. Y., in 1801, with his father David. The next



spring they purchased a farm in the town of Benton, and David, sr., died in 1803. His wife died in 1842. They had three sons and four daughters. David, jr., married Elizabeth Mittower, daughter of John Mittower, and settled in Benton, remaining until 1836, when he sold his farm and bought the farm now owned by his son, Levi. He had three children, Nancy, Magaret, and Levi. He was a farmer, and after 1836 resided in Torrey. He died April 12, 1864, and his wife died November 30, 1857. David, jr., was born in 1781. He was drafted in June, 1815, and went to Buffalo, remaining there several months. In 1827 he joined the Presbyterian Church, and was an active member until his death. His wife joined at the same time.

Speelman, Levi, son of David and Elizabeth Speelman, was born in Benton, October 27, 1809, and has never been a resident outside of this county. In 1839 he was united in marriage with Mary Freeman, daughter of R. L. Freeman, and since 1836 he has resided on the same farm. He had three children, Charles M., who resides in Penn Yan; Byron F., who died in 1879; and Mary E., wife of Avery C. Dean, and resides in Torrey. Charles Speelman married Deborah A., daughter of Daniel Dean. Nancy Speelman was fatally burned, by falling into the fireplace (it is supposed while fainting) and died January 24, 1826. Margaret married George Garner, and settled in Pultney, Steuben County, but later moved to Oakland County, Mich., where they now reside.

Smith, John W. 2d, born in Brighton, Sussex County, Eng., January 1, 1847, emigrated with his parents, George and Eliza Smith, to Canada where he resided until 1867, when he came to Torrey, this county. Mr. Smith is a farmer, lumberman, manufacturer of drain tile and proprietor of a steam threshing machine. He is a Republican, is deservedly popular with both parties, and has served his town as supervisor for several years. April 13, 1881, he married Carrie M. Buckland, of Dresden, and immediately settled in their present home with Mrs. Smith's father, William Buckland. They have one surviving daughter, Annis.

Smith, William J., son of Isaac and Nancy (Stevenson) Smith, was born at Salem, Washington County, N. Y., in 1823. He married, in 1843 Margaret Van Cleef, of Seneca Falls, where they settled and re-

mained until 1861, when they removed to Dresden, Yates County, N. Y., where he still resides. Mr. Smith was a miller by trade, but on coming to Dresden he at once engaged in grape culture, and now has a fine vineyard of ten acres. His son, George C., of whom we write, was born at Seneca Falls, December 21, 1844, and came to Dresden with his father in 1861. February 10, 1863, he enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Ninety-second New York Volunteers, and at once went to the front with his regiment in the Army of the Potomac, and fought under Generals Hancock, Mead, and Grant, participating in the battles of Antietam, Gettysburg, Winchester, the Wilderness, and many others. He escaped without even a scratch, and was honorably discharged at the close of the war in 1865. He then traveled through most of the Western States, and finally settled at Dixon, Lee County, Ill., in the fall of 1871. He then engaged in joiner work, and May 11, 1872, he married Grace, daughter of H. C. Dudley, esq., and a lineal descendant of Sir Guilford Dudley, of English fame. He prosecuted his trade under the direction of Col. T. Morgan, an unusually competent mechanic, and a large contractor and builder, until 1880. He then established a business of his own. In 1884 he returned to Dresden and bought a home on Seneca street adjoining his father, where he is successfully conducting his business of contractor and builder. Some of the finest new buildings in Dresden are samples of his skill and also several in Penn Yan. They have two sons and two daughters.

Vermilyea, Isaac, was born in Jefferson, Schoharie County, N. Y., on May 7, 1816, a son of Benjamin and Chloe Vermilyea. About 1818 his parents moved to Prattsburg, Steuben County, where Isaac resided until 1865. He then moved to Torrey, where he has since resided. He married Margaret Smith, of Wheeler, N. Y., and they have one son, Herbert S., who is a farmer. Isaac Vermilyea has been a farmer, but is now engaged in grape growing more especially, having seven acres devoted to this culture. He owns a farm of twenty-five acres. Both he and his wife are members of the Baptist Church of Penn Yan. He helped to organize the Dresden Grange, was a charter member, and was master one year. He joined the Baptist Church at Prattsburg over fifty-five years ago, and has been an active member ever since. He was justice of the peace in Prattsburgh eight years, and assessor six years. Isaac Vermilyea died August 21, 1891.

The Youngs family of America is of English origin, and descended from Rev. John Youngs, who came from Suffolk, England, and settled in Suffolk, Long Island, about 1640. Benjamin F. Youngs, one of the eighth generation, was born in 1790, on Long Island, on the old domain of his father (who owned a square mile), where he resided until 1850. He then removed to Yates County and became the proprietor of the Mosher mill, about a mile east of Penn Yan. In 1863 he moved to Dresden, where he died in 1865. About 1816 he married Sarah Wiggins, of his native county, and had seven children, two sons and five daughters. Their oldest son, Seth, was born May 13, 1833. He received a good common school education, and is a skillful mechanic and a cabinet-maker, and now engaged in manufacturing artificial stone at Dresden. June 1, 1859, he married Arabella Sprague, who died June 11, 1889. They had one son, Edward F. Youngs, who is station agent, telegraph operator and postmaster at West Camp, Ulster County, N. Y.

#### TOWN OF BARRINGTON.

Bailey, Joseph S., a farmer and fruit grower, was born in Barrington, Yates County, November 27, 1846, a son of Samuel and Martha (Wright) Bailey, natives of Yates and Putnam counties, N. Y., who were married in Yates County, February 28, 1847. The mother was born June 22, 1814. They had seven children, of whom two are now living: Joseph S. and Martha Ann, the latter the wife of G. W. Finton. The father came to Yates County in 1833. Mrs. Bailey survives her husband. Both were members of the Baptist Church. Joseph S. married in 1868 Sarah E., daughter of Samuel and Margaret (DeGraw) Pitcher. She was born September 28, 1849. There were three children by this marriage, John C., Edwin J. Bailey and Lyman W. Bailey. Mrs. Bailey's mother, born in Tyrone, N. Y., July 15, 1818, was a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Knapp, and was married to Samuel Pitcher in 1842. Mr. Bailey was elected assessor of the town of Barrington in 1888 and served one term. He owns 150 acres of land, of which seven acres are in a vineyard. Himself, wife, and oldest son are members of the Baptist Church in Barrington. He served three terms as trustee of that church.

Bellis, Amos, born in Easton, Pa., is a farmer in Barrington, born December 18, 1822, and a son of Peter and Elizabeth (Taylor) Bellis. His father was a native of Easton, Pa., his mother having been born in New Jersey. They were married in Easton, where ten children were born to them, six surviving, viz.: Eliza A., Jeremiah, Mariah, William, Amos, Peter S. The father emigrated from Pennsylvania to New York in 1824, and settled in Yates County, where he died in 1853. His wife died six years later. Mr. Bellis was reared on a farm, receiving a common school education in the Barrington district schools. He married in 1845 Emeline Shaw, daughter of John Shaw, of Barrington. She was born January 23, 1823. Their six children are William, Deloss, Frank, Albert, Martin and Omer. Mr. Bellis has held the offices of constable, notary public and assessor of the town of Barrington. He owns a farm of 108 acres.

Bullock, Herman, of Barrington, a prominent fruit grower, was born in Yates County, N. Y., March 25, 1848, a son of Calvin and Lucinda (Simpson) Bullock. His father was one of the early settlers of the county, a farmer by occupation, and had a family of nine children, six of whom survive. He died in the county in 1867, and his wife in 1882. Both were members of the Baptist Church. Mr. Bullock married, in 1871, Drusilla Finton, a native of this county, born in 1851. By this marriage five children have been born, viz.: Joseph, William, Edgar, Edith and Horner. In 1880 Mr. Bullock engaged in the saw-mill and basket business, employing some thirty-five hands. He has cut material for about 900,000 baskets this year up to date, and will cut about 5,000 more this fall. He and his wife are members of the Baptist Church.

Cornell, David B., a farmer and native of Barrington, born March 4, 1848, is a son of Hiram and Mary (Bishop) Cornell. His parents were both natives of New York, and were married in Barrington, where were born to them five children: Samuel, David B., Isaac C., Edward B., and Jane. Three now living, Samuel, Edward and David. Samuel is a teacher in Truckee, Cal.; has been there a number of years; Edward B. is a Baptist preacher, and is now preaching at Wellsburg, Pa.; Isaac C. was one of the editors of the Yates County *Chronicle*, firm of Cleveland



& Cornell, at his death; Jenne, was the wife of H. H. Hewitt. The father and mother were school teachers in the early part of their lives, and in 1845 moved to Barrington, where he bought land and lived a farmer until 1878, when he moved to Dundee, and resided there until his death which occurred in 1876. The mother now resides in Dundee, and is in her seventy-third year, having been a member of the Baptist Church for over fifty years. Mr. D. B. Cornell was educated in the Dundee Academy, and at the age of twenty he commenced teaching in the Dundee public schools, and taught in other parts of the country for six or seven years. He was married in 1873 to Lovisa, daughter of Edward Jackson, born in Schuyler County, in 1855. Mr. Cornell engaged in the mercantile business for one year at Winchester, Va., then sold his stock of goods and bought a farm of sixty-four acres in Barrington, N. Y., where he now lives. He has sixteen acres of orchard, and ten acres of raspberries. Mr. and Mrs. Cornell have four children, viz.: Edith, Maud, Eva and Claud. They are both members of the Dundee Baptist Church.

Coolbaugh, Squire L., a farmer of Barrington, where he was born June 17, 1829, is a son of Benjamin and Amelia (Loomis) Coolbaugh. The father was a native of Massachusetts, born in 1789, and the mother was born in 1780, their children numbering six, five of whom survive. He was a farmer, and came to New York with his parents in 1806. He died in 1866 and his wife in 1850. Squire L. was educated in the district schools of Barrington, and was married in 1854 to Fannie Grey, born in 1839. Mr. Coolbaugh served one term as assessor of the town of Barrington. He owns 114 acres of fine land.

Coons, John F., a prominent farmer, and native of Barrington, Yates County, born May 3, 1852, is a son of Peter and Jane (Miller) Coons. The father was born in Columbia County, N. Y., in 1821, a farmer, and married in Yates County, where he had four children: Frances, wife of Newton Powlison; Almira, wife of Oliver Swarts; Gertrude, wife of Frank Kendall; and John F. Coons. Peter Coons died in this county in 1882, and his wife in July, 1891. She was a member of the Baptist Church. John Coons was educated at the public schools, at Starkey Seminary, and Dundee Academy. He married, December 24, 1872, Emma

Koon, a native of New York, born in Steuben County, November 12, 1852, and a daughter of John and Lucy A. (Allerton) Koon, natives of Steuben and Greene Counties, N. Y. The father was born in 1801, and died in 1870. The mother, born in 1807, died in 1889. They were the parents of eight children, five now living, viz.: Mary, wife of Thomas Ringrose; Emma, Charlotte, Martin and Edward G. Mrs. Coons's father was a farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Coons have been the parents of three children, two of whom survive, Jennie A. and Jessie A. Mr. Coons is justice of the peace for the town of Barrington, has a farm of ninety acres, and he and his wife are members of the Baptist Church.

Crosby, Peter H., the father of Joseph F., was one of the most substantial citizens of Barrington. He married Catharine, daughter of Joseph Fenton, and their children were Emillia, Alanson, Joseph F., Selah, Druzilla and Isaac. Peter H. was a leading member of the Baptist Church at Barrington. He held numerous town offices, and as commissioner of highways, laid out many of the roads of the town. His second wife was Widow Hair, daughter of Andrew Raplee. Of his children, Emillia married John McDowell; Alanson married Catharine, daughter of William McDowell; Selah, married Elsie, another daughter of William McDowell; Druzilla married John Ovenshire; Isaac married Druzilla Eddy; Joseph F., the subject of this sketch, was born in the town of Barrington, December 15, 1825, and was educated at the common schools of that town. He has been a farmer all his life. He was the first man to plant a vineyard on the east side of Lake Keuka. Joseph F. Crosby was instrumental in getting a post-office and landing located on his farm and they are known as Crosby's Landing and Crosby post-office. In politics he has been an ardent supporter of the Republican party since 1856. Up to that time he was a Democrat, as his father had been before him. Mr. Crosby has always been very active in the affairs of Yates County, having held many of the offices of the town of Barrington. He was elected sheriff of this county in 1864, clerk of the county in 1873, and served one term and was re-elected in 1888. He married, first, Amanda, daughter of Joseph Ketchum, of Barrington, in 1846. She died in 1850, and for his second wife, he married Lois, daughter of Caleb Swarthout, of Wayne, Steuben County, N. Y., in 1851, and by this union there were two sons. Edmund, who

married Jane, daughter of Joseph Guthrie, and Fred, who married Mary, daughter of George Fenton.

Eggleston, James W., a farmer and fruit grower of Barrington, and a native of Yates County, N. Y., was born May 19, 1861, a son of Stephen and Margaret (Jayne) Eggleston. His father was a native of Steuben County, a farmer, and was twice married, first to Dyantha Depew, October 4, 1839, by whom he had seven children, as follows: Odel, Nathan, Sarah, Flora, Samuel, Martin and Benjamin; Sarah is now married to Jacob West, and Flora to William Spink. He married second, September 11, 1859, Margaret Jayne, who bore him five children, as follows: James W., Timothy J., Linda, Mary and Ella; Mary is now married to Elmer Washburn. He settled in Yates County in 1857, where he lived until his death in 1887. His wife, a native of Yates County and a member of the M. E. Church, died in 1889. James W. was reared on a farm and received a common school education at the district schools of Barrington. He married October 27, 1885, Lizzie Henderson, who was born December 10, 1865, and by whom he has one son, Howard E. Mrs. Eggleston was the daughter of Witsell M. and Martha (Gilmore) Henderson, who were early settlers of Yates County, her father having been a school teacher. He died in 1883, and her mother in 1876. Mr. Eggleston and brother have a fine grape vineyard of fifty acres and will ship this year (1891) one hundred tons. Mr. and Mrs. Eggleston are members of the Farmers' Alliance, his wife being a member of the M. E. Church.

Ellis, William S., a farmer and native of Yates County, N. Y., was born in Milo, December 8, 1818. He was a son of Amos and Mary (Smith) Ellis, both natives of New York. The father, a prominent farmer, was the parent of seven children, three of whom survive, Miriam, wife of J. Baker; Maria, widow of James Sutton, and William S. Both parents died in this county. Mr. Ellis was educated in Penn Yan, and has been three times married. His first wife was a daughter of Orange and Penelope Hollister, of Starkey; his second, a daughter of Gilbert Baker, of Milo; his present wife is a daughter of Hon. O. Benjamin, a prominent lawyer, and for twelve years surrogate of Ontario County. He is the father of five children, two survive, viz: Helen and Llewellyn. Mr. Ellis was six years assessor of Barrington, and one

year supervisor, and several times declined renomination. He owns a farm of ninety acres and is a member of the Baptist Church, his wife being an Episcopalian.

Florence, Cass, a liveryman of Dundee, is a native of this county, born May 20, 1854, and is a son of Floyd and Elizabeth (Swarts) Florence, both natives of New York and married in this county. Five children were born of this union, viz.: Cass, the oldest son; Lucy, wife of James Moor; Lydia, wife of Eugene Miller; Emma, wife of Loyd Wheeler; and William. Mr. Florence was a farmer, and Cass was reared on a farm. He married, March 6, 1881, Flora Williamson, a native of this county, born in 1859. Mr. Florence farmed with his father until the fall of 1872, when he commenced braking on the L. S. & M. S. R. R., where he remained until 1877, when he served on the Michigan Central for one year, then returned to Dundee and engaged in farming until 1887, when he formed a partnership with Amos Houck in the livery business at Dundee, in which he has been engaged ever since. They have thirteen head of good horses, and receive their share of patronage.

Freemont, B. F., a farmer of Barrington, is a native of Yates County, N. Y. He was born June 2, 1826, and is a son of John and Lydia (Briggs) Freemont, who were natives of New Jersey. B. F. Freemont's father came to New York with his parents when a boy, there were then but three log houses in the village of Penn Yan. He was one of eleven children, eight of whom are now living, viz.: Oliver, Mary E., John, Caroline, Helen, Henry, William and B. F. The father was a farmer. B. F. Freemont's parents are both dead. Mr. Freemont was reared on a farm, receiving a common school education. He was married in 1847, to Ester McIntire, by whom he has had two children, John and Archibald. Mr. and Mrs. Freemont are members of the Barrington M. E. Church. Mr. Freemont has been Sunday-school superintendent, trustee of the church, and class leader for a number of years.

Horton, Daniel L., a farmer in Barrington, and a native of Schuyler County, N. Y., was born March 11, 1827, and is a son of Thomas P. and Phebia A. Horton, both natives of Dutchess County and the parents of fourteen children. Thomas P. Horton died in 1878, being a farmer



by occupation. His wife, Phebia, died in 1879. Daniel L. Horton married in this county, in 1849, Miss Ella Myron, a native of Tompkins County, N. Y., who was born March 23, 1826. One son was born of this union, Aldren. Mr. Horton came to this country in 1836, and bought the farm on which he now resides, consisting of 218 1-2 acres, three miles west of Dundee.

Jayne, George M., a prominent farmer and fruit grower of Barrington, is a native of this town, born March 22, 1818, and a son of Nathan and Margaret (Marrian) Jayne, both natives of Sussex County, N. J., the father having been born in 1792, and the mother in 1795. Nathan was reared on a farm and when a boy came with his parents to New York, where he died; his wife is still living on the homestead at the age of 97 years. George M. was the second in a family of ten children. He married, February 3, 1846, Hester M. Woodruff, a native of this county, born March 30, 1824. By this union four children have been born, one surviving, Frank B. Mr. Jayne owns a farm on the lake consisting of 135 acres, with 27 acres of grape vineyard. George M. Jayne died October 7, 1891.

Lewis, Dennis, born in Yates County, N. Y., February 11, 1841, is a son of Merrit C. and Sarah (Coykendall) Lewis; his father came with his parents in 1820, and settled on a farm in Starkey, where he lived until his death in 1883. His widow resides in Reading, aged 83 years. Dennis, the youngest of a family of five children, has followed farming. He married in 1867, Amelia Coykendall, by whom he had one son, Firman, born in 1872. Mr. Lewis enlisted in the late war in 1862, in Co. I, 148th Infantry, under Capt. M. S. Hicks, and served on the Union side until the close of the war. He was in eighteen regular battles, and in a number of skirmishes. Mr. Lewis is the owner of a farm of ninety-three acres in Barrington.

Loomis, Morris, born April 22, 1831, is a son of Gideon and Lydia (Barnes) Loomis, and grandson of Thomas Loomis, who settled in this county in 1814. The father of Morris was born in Hillsdale, this State, February 20, 1800. A farmer by occupation, he married in 1820, Lydia Barnes, and they had eight children, six sons and two daughters, four surviving. The father died in 1854, and the mother in 1848.

They were members of the Baptist Church. Morris Loomis was reared on a farm in Barrington. He married July 16, 1854, Candice, daughter of Samuel Vance, a pioneer settler of Yates County. Nine children have been born of this union, seven sons and two daughters, six of whom survive, viz.: Samuel, Dorcilla, wife of B. S. Pulner; Melvin, Marilla, wife of S. B. Miller; Huldah, and Luella. Mr. Loomis was assessor of Barrington one term, served as overseer of the poor two terms. He has a farm of 132 acres, and is a member of the Farmers' Alliance.

Lord, Benjamin M., eldest son of Ebenezer and Mary Lord, was born in Ballston in 1801 and came with his parents to Barrington in 1825, where he engaged in teaching and farming. In 1827 he married Elizabeth Fleming, a native of New Jersey, by whom he had six children: Rachel, who married Horace Kenyon; Mary, wife of Albert Ovenshire; Elizabeth, widow of Theron Wheeler (all of Barrington); Kate, wife of Emmett Shepard, of Saratoga County, died in 1859; Charles B. died in Starkey in 1891; and George P. resides in Dundee. Benjamin M. Lord died in 1858, and his wife in 1873.

Lord, Ebenezer, wife and eight children, removed to Barrington from Saratoga County about 1825, where he purchased a large farm and settled his children about him. For many years he and his sons were actively identified with the development and improvement of the town, but removals and death have wrought their changes until not one of the name remains in the place.

Losey, Henry S., is a farmer of Starkey and a native of New Jersey, was born April 16, 1835. He is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Smith) Losey, farmers and both natives of New Jersey, from which State Mr. Losey came with his parents to New York, when a small boy. Both parents are now deceased. Henry S. is the third son of a family of seven children, four of whom are surviving. He married, March 14, 1853, Sarah J. Putman, a native of New Jersey, born April 4, 1835. By that marriage three children were born, viz: Charles W., Amelia, wife of Elie W. Parker, and Edward. Mr. Losey's wife died October 14, 1873, and he married second, Miss Lois E. Price, of Schuyler County, October 22, 1881, born March 8, 1848. Mr. Losey served one

term as assessor of Starkey, in 1877 as overseer of the poor, and three years as commissioner. He has a farm of eighty-three acres located four miles southwest of Dundee.

McIntire, Archibald, a farmer of Barrington, and native of Yates County, was born July 21, 1831, a son of Archibald and Esther (Thompson) McIntire, who were both born in Columbia County, N. Y., and were the parents of seven children, two of whom survive, our subject and a sister, Mrs. Esther Freeman. The father was a farmer and moved from Columbia County to Yates County, in 1816, where he lived until his death, in 1859. The mother died in 1863. Mr. McIntire was reared on a farm, and was married in 1866, to Satie Bain. Three children have been born to them, Bell, John L. and Sarah A. Mr. McIntire owns a farm consisting of 110 acres, with six acres of grape vineyard.

Meeks, Joseph D., a farmer of Barrington, was born in Tompkins County, February 4, 1841, and is a son of Elias and Elizabeth (Wakeman) Meeks (natives of Tompkins and Steuben Counties), and of their four children two are now living, Abigail and Joseph. The father was a farmer and was overseer of the poor in Barrington one term. His wife died in 1844, and he married second, Mary Bassett, by whom he had three children, Neoma, Martha and Viola. They reside in Barrington. Joseph D. Meeks married in 1863, Levica, daughter of Samuel and Mehetibel Williams, and they have six children, viz.: Elmer, Hattie, wife of Myron Clark; Laura, wife of Charles Allen; Frank, Anna, and Gracie. Mr. Meeks came with his parents from Tompkins County to Yates County in 1856. He has been tax collector of Barrington four terms. He owns a farm of ninety-six acres, with ten acres of vineyard land. Will ship fifteen tons of grapes this year. Both he and his wife are members of the Baptist Church.

Miller, John B., a prominent farmer of Barrington, is a native of Yates County, and was born May 3, 1821, a son of Daniel (born in Seneca County, N. Y.) and Susan (born in Tompkins County, N. Y.) Miller, who were the parents of nine children, four of whom are now living. Daniel Miller learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed in the early part of his life. He moved from Seneca County to Yates County

in 1817, and turned his attention to farming, which he followed until his death in 1871. His wife died in 1876. Both were members of the Baptist Church. John B. was educated in the district schools of Barrington, and married, in 1850, Cynthia, daughter of Gilbert Baker, by whom he had seven children, six surviving, viz: Ida, wife of Dr. Horton; Byron E., Willie L., Minnie M., wife of Dr. Cottrell; Elmer S. and Glenn W. He owns two farms in Barrington, one of 150 acres and one of 180 acres, and lives two miles west of Dundee. Mr. Miller was town assessor for three terms.

Powlison, Newton, of Barrington, a native of Troy, Pa., was born June 7, 1842, a son of Edward and Pluma (Merritt) Powlison, the former of New Jersey, the latter of Pennsylvania. Edward Powlison was a wagonmaker by trade. He was married in Pennsylvania and had one son, Newton. He moved from Pennsylvania to New York in 1851 and settled in Dundee, where he worked at his trade until his death in 1863. His widow still survives him and is living with her son. Newton Powlison married, in 1862, Frankie Coons, born in June, 1844. He owns a farm of ninety-six acres, at Barrington, and both he and his wife are members of the Baptist Church.

Rapalee, Daniel, a farmer of Barrington, was born there March 25, 1843, and is a son of Joshua and Elizabeth (Walker) Rapalee. Mr. Rapalee was educated in the public schools of Dundee. He was married in this county in 1866, to Frances Snooks, by whom he had three children, two of whom survive, viz: Dora O., and Edith L. Mr. Rapalee owns a good farm of 115 acres.

Rapalee, George W., a farmer and native of Barrington, born July 24, 1845, is a son of Joshua and Betsey J. (Welker) Rapalee. The father was born in 1806, and moved with his parents to Seneca, when a boy. He was four times married, and was the father of eleven children, being also a successful farmer and stock dealer. He died August 31, 1888. His wife, Betsey, died about 1854. George W. was reared on a farm, received a common business education in Barrington district schools, and was married January 19, 1869, to Lydia D. Pulver, a native of Luzerne County, Pa., born February 28, 1852. They had four children, three of whom are now living, viz: Milton L., Homer D. and



Ross R. Mr. Rapalee is the owner of 180 acres of farm land, where he now lives, five miles northwest of Dundee.

Rapalee, Mrs. Lucinda, widow of the late Clinton Rapalee who was killed May 13, 1890, is a daughter of Peter I. and Elizabeth (Snyder) Millis, who moved from Columbia, Dutchess County, to Yates County, N. Y., in 1815. Their children were Morris, born in 1810; Alvin, born in 1811; Cornelia, born in 1817; Hiram, born in 1819; Andrew, born in 1820; Henry, born in 1821; Eliza A., born in 1823; Sarah J., born in 1825; Lucinda, born in 1827; Almira, born in 1829; Hawley, born in 1833; and Horace, who died in infancy. The parents of these children came to Yates County when there were but few settlers in the place, buying a farm in Barrington, adjoining Milo, which they cleared, and where Mr. Snyder remained until his death, February 25, 1870. He was born February 15, 1785. Elizabeth Snyder, his wife, remained with her children and died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Benjamin Hunt, in Michigan, aged ninety-four years. Lucinda Snyder, married Clinton Rapalee, February 19, 1850, and had six children; Morris, born February 16, 1851; Daniel P., born November 11, 1852; Elmer D., born October 6, 1854; Hugh M., born September 5, 1858; John C., born February 22, 1862; and Libbie D., born August 4, 1869. The second son, Daniel, was killed almost instantly, December 13, 1862, by being thrown from a horse, his foot hanging in the stirrup, and the horse crushing his skull with his foot.

Snook, Oliver, of Barrington, was born in Sussex County, N. J., November 21, 1824, a son of William and Mary (Lontz) Snook, and came with his parents to New York in 1837. William Snook died September 30, 1840, aged fifty-five years; and his wife died October 30, 1849. He was one of a family of eight children, of whom four survive. The father was a farmer and stock dealer in his later years, and a hotel keeper in early life, at Sussex County, N. J. Oliver was reared on a farm, receiving a common school education. He married in Barrington, September 18, 1844, Miss Mary A. Disbrow, by whom he had five children, viz.: Lorenzo D., Lyman W., Alanson, Watson J., and William O. Mr. Snook owns a farm of 124 acres, with some three acres of raspberries. His wife died June 26, 1891.

## TOWN OF POTTER.

Andrews, Samuel, son of Thomas and Hannah (Williamson) Andrews, was born August 5, 1837, in Spafford, N. Y., and came to this town with his parents when one year old. He has been a farmer and dealer in agricultural implements nearly all his life. He was educated at the district schools. In politics he is a Democrat. He is a member of Keuka Lodge No. 149, of Penn Yan, N. Y., I. O. O. F. He married, July 3, 1857, Mary Ann, daughter of Steward Wilcox, of Jerusalem, and their children are: Flora A., who married Luther Turner, and Steward J. Andrews.

Barber, Jonathan S., is a descendant of Valentine Barber, who came from England before the Revolution, and settled in Greene County, N. Y. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and his son, Jeremiah, came to Ovid, Seneca County, N. Y., where he became a captain in the New York State Militia, before the War of 1812. Jeremiah, jr., his son, was born April 21, 1795, and was drafted in the latter war. He was at the battle of Fort Niagara under General Scott. After the close of the war he came back to Ovid and married Anna, daughter of Nicholas Van Zandt, a native of New Jersey, in 1813, and came to Middlesex, now Potter, in 1815, occupying himself with farming for the balance of his life. He was justice of the peace for twelve years, assessor for three terms, and was very much respected as a citizen. He died September 16, 1860. Jonathan S. was born June 29, 1826, in Potter, N. Y., and educated at the common schools of that time. He has been a farmer and mechanic all his life. In politics he has been a Republican ever since the organization of that party. He was collector for the town in 1850, and assessor for about fifteen years. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Potter Center, N. Y. Mr. Barber married Sarah A., daughter of John Price, of Livonia, Livingston County, N. Y., October 4, 1848, and they had four children: Adaline, who married James C. Smith; Carrie, who married Michael Bragan; Florella, who married William Yaxley; and Cora Barber. Mr. Barber still lives on the old homestead, which is in a fine state of cultivation.

Carson, W. A., M.D., of Rushville, N. Y., son of William A. and Margaret (Disbro) Carson, was born at Seneca, Ontario County, N. Y., November 11, 1841. He was educated at Canandaigua Academy (1858), Genesee Seminary and College (1859-61), and Albany Medical College (1862-63). He was formerly a farmer, and is now a practicing physician and druggist. He was resident physician of the Albany Hospital in 1864, chairman of the Board of Education of Rushville Union School for nine years, and president of the Yates County Medical Society in 1888. Dr. Carson cast his first vote for President Lincoln in 1864, and has since been a steadfast Republican. He was a member of the Board of Supervisors from the town of Potter two terms, being chairman one year, president of the village of Rushville three terms, and was elected to the Assembly of New York State by a plurality of 1,033, his opponents being Henry M. Huntington (Democrat), and John Kline (Prohibitionist). The Republican plurality in 1887 was 370. In the towns of Potter and Middlesex Mr. Carson received the largest vote ever given to any candidate for member of Assembly since the formation of the towns. He is a member of Rushville Lodge, F. A. M. He married, February 1, 1865, Elizabeth A., daughter C. W. Newman, of Gorham, N. Y., and they have two children, Harriet N. and William A. Carson, jr.

Cole, Warner, P., son of Warner and Mary Ann (Ferguson) Cole, was born August 12, 1835, in Gorham, N. Y., and one year later his parents came to this town, where he was educated in the district schools, and has been a successful farmer. In politics he is a Republican. December 25, 1859, Mr. Cole married Jane, daughter of Hon. John Southerland, of this town, and they have four children: John S., who married Mary Chesbro; Mary Ann (deceased); Elmira M., married John S. Stokoe, and Martha F.

Covert, Harry L., son of John and Susan (Spicer) Covert, and the fifth of eight children, was born July 5, 1818. He was educated at the district schools, and is a farmer. He owns a fine farm near Potter Center. In politics he is a Republican, but has never aspired to office. October 11, 1843, he married Martha, daughter of Peter Bascom, of this town. They have no children, but have adopted nine into their home and have lived to see them become useful men and women in the community.

Dinehart, James, son of Peter J. and Eliza (Covert) Dinehart, was born October 1, 1836, in this town. His father, Peter, was born December 11, 1802, in Columbia County, N. Y., came to this country in 1826, and died October 15, 1891; mother died November 4, 1891. James was educated at the district schools of the town, and also at Penn Yan, and has been a farmer all his life. He represents some of the largest insurance companies in the country. In politics a Republican, he has been commissioner of highways for seven years, which office he holds at the present time. December 24, 1856, Mr. Dinehart married Elizabeth, daughter of T. Jefferson Andrews, of this town, and they have one daughter, Clara E.

Dinturff, Peter L., son of Jacob and Rachel (Leddick) Dinturff, was born August 28, 1828, in this town. His father was born near Harrisburgh, Pa., in 1794, and came to Potter in 1803, where he married Rachel, daughter of Philip Leddick, of Fayette, Seneca County, N. Y. Peter was educated at the common schools of this town and has been a successful farmer. In politics he has been a Republican, and has always taken an active interest in the welfare of his native town. He has served on the Board of Supervisors for two terms, 1870-71, and has been assessor of the town of Potter for the last five years, and holds that office at the present time. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Rushville, N. Y. Mr. Dinturff married Emeline, daughter of Ira Hubbard, of Alvin, N. Y., November 13, 1849, and their children are Ella, who married Charles Chapin, of Gorham, N. Y.; Nettie, who married Thomas M. Chadwick, of Eddytown, N. Y., and Nora B. Dinturff.

Gardner, John R., son of Peleg and Nancy (Havens) Gardner, was born December 28, 1852, in this town, and received his education at the district schools and Penn Yan Academy, since which time he has occupied himself with farming. He has also taken an active part in the affairs of his native town, and has held the office of supervisor two terms, and was a delegate to Saratoga, N. Y., at the time of the nomination of Mr. Davenport for governor. In politics he is a Republican. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., Penn Yan. He married Lillie, daughter of Robert Edmond, of Benton, N. Y., and they have three children, Robert E., Irving Scott and Hiram Albert Gardner.



Goodrich, George S., son of Darius and Cynthia (Taylor) Goodrich, was born October 17, 1855, in Hume, Allegany County, N. Y., and was educated in the common schools, Canandaigua Academy and Williams University at Rochester, N. Y. He came to Potter, N. Y., in 1877, and is a successful farmer. A Republican in politics, he has taken an active part in the affairs of his adopted town, of which Mr. Goodrich is now serving his second term as supervisor. He married Mary A., daughter of Oliver Underwood (August 15, 1877), who was a very successful farmer of this town. They have two children, Oliver D. and Emily M.

Hall, Charles, son of John and Nancy (Payne) Hall, was born December 27, 1831, in this town, and was educated at the common school. He has always lived in this town with the exception of about three years spent in California. In politics a Republican, he has been assessor of this town for the last twenty years. He owns a fine farm near the center of Potter. March 16, 1859, he married Hannah, daughter of Hamilton and Mary Briggs (descendants of Peleg and Nicholas Briggs, who were among the first settlers of the county). Their children are Willett B., who married Alice L. Conley; Stella M., Flora, John B., Lora and Clara M.

Hobart, Frank C., son of John F. and Ann Eliza (Thomas) Hobart, was born January 16, 1837, in Potter, N. Y., and was educated at Franklin Academy at Prattsburg, N. Y., and Ann Arbor, Mich. After finishing his education he taught school during the winters and worked on a farm during the summer months, for a number of years, after which he went to Jackson, Mich., where he remained about two years. He then returned to Potter and engaged in the mercantile business at Potter Center, for about fifteen years, when after a long and successful business he retired. He is a Republican and has been justice of the peace for twelve years. Mr. Hobart married first, Harriet R., daughter of George G. Wyman, on October 14, 1861. She died January 2, 1889, and he married second, Delia A., daughter of Orville H. Myers, of Jackson, Mich., on January 21, 1891. They are members of the M. E. Church, at Potter.

Hobart, Melville W., son of Joseph L. and Eleanor (Boulunga) Hobart, was born June 11, 1834, and is still living on the old homestead.

He received his education at Starkey Seminary and Penn Yan Academy, and has been a farmer all his life. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. Hobart is a member of Milo Lodge, No. 108 of Penn Yan, N. Y. He married Helen M., daughter of John H. Gleason, of this town, by whom he had seven daughters: Harriet, who married Seward Robinson, of this town; Lulu (deceased), who married Daniel Sutton; May, Eleanor M., Maud, Clara Louise (deceased), and Bessie Hobart.

Ingram, Alfred, son of George and Jane (Horner) Ingram, was born July 18, 1826, in Scawby, Lincolnshire, Eng., and was educated at the common schools of that country. He landed at New York city, January 19, 1851, and came to Benton, Yates County, where he remained for about two years. He then removed to Italy N. Y., remaining for about five years, and from there he went to Prattsburg, N. Y., and came from there to Potter in 1864, where he bought a farm, and has been a successful farmer. Mr. Ingram is a Republican and has been assessor for this town for three years. He married first, Sarah, daughter of Robert Howlatt, of Messingham, Lincolnshire, Eng., May 22, 1850, and they had two children, George R., who married Emily E. Underwood; and Martha Jane, who married John D. Little, and resides at Morley, Mich. Mrs. Ingram died October 10, 1850. Mr. Ingram married second, Catharine E., daughter of Peter Bascom, May 5, 1859.

Ingram, George R., son of Alfred and Sarah (Hullett) Ingram, was born December 15, 1852, in Benton, N. Y., and was educated at the district schools and Penn Yan Academy. He came to Potter in 1865, and is a successful farmer. In politics he is a Republican, and is justice of the peace of this town. He married Emma A., daughter of William H. Underwood, of this town, March 24, 1874, and by this union the following children have been born: Clarence Ward (deceased), William H., Oliver, and George Ingram.

Lane, Leander W., son of Isaac and Priscilla (Wilson) Lane, was born August 22, 1827, on the farm that was settled by his grandfather, Abraham Lane, in 1787, and this farm has been owned by the family ever since. Mr. Lane was educated at Lima and Cazenovia, N. Y., and has been a farmer all his life. In politics he is a Democrat. He has been commissioner of highways three years, and justice of the peace four

years, in this town. He married Elmira L., daughter of William Hobart, of this town, on February 18, 1851. Their children are as follows: William I. (deceased); Carrie L., who married Dr. O. E. Newman of this town; and Jennie E. (deceased).

McMasters, David M., son of David J. and Laura McMasters, was born August 27, 1839, in Potter, N. Y. He was educated at the common schools and has always lived upon the farm. In politics a Republican, Mr. McMasters has taken an active interest in the affairs of this town. He has been supervisor for two terms and is a member of Lodge of F. and A. M., of Rushville. November 16, 1865, he married Emma, daughter of Charles Bordwell, of this town, by whom he had three children, Nellie F., who married Charles Silvernail; Carrie L., and Charles S.

Roberson, Joel B., son of Thomas and Hannah (Lane) Roberson, was born June 12, 1822, in this town. He was educated at the district schools and worked on the farm until 1852, when he traveled to California, remaining there until 1860. He then returned to his native town, where he has since been engaged in farming. In politics he is a Democrat. Mr. Roberson married, November 20, 1863, Eliza, daughter of Henry Cool of this town. His wife died January 6, 1889.

Thomas, Charles H., son of Peleg and Lucrecia (Sutherland) Thomas, was born December 1, 1845, in this town. He was educated at the common schools and has always followed farming. He is a Democrat and has served as commissioner of highways four terms. He married Ella, daughter of James and Emeline (Pulver) Ketchum, by whom he has two daughters, Anna Belle, and Louisa Ray. Mr. Thomas owns a farm in the northern part of the town, which is in a fine state of cultivation.

Underwood, George, son of John S. and Abbie (Harrington) Underwood, was born October 9, 1829, in Jerusalem, N. Y. He came to this town in 1837, and was educated at the common schools of the town, and has all his life been a farmer. In politics he is a Republican. He married Sarah Ann, daughter of Warner Cole, of this town, on March 12, 1861, and their children are Nora May, born March 1, 1862, died January 28, 1871; and Charles C. Underwood, born September 25, 1866.

Voak, John and Rachel Dyer his wife, came to this place in 1796, from the town of Hardwick, Sussex County, N. J. A brother, Abraham, had previously settled in this vicinity. John "Vought" (as the name was then spelled) made his first purchase of land of Arnold Potter and wife, being forty acres, which is now the southeast corner of lot 9, east range of lots in the town of Potter, the deed bearing date May 12, 1801, consideration \$150. It was on this lot he built his first cabin, which had a bark roof and a ground floor, and that was their first home in the wilderness, where bears, wolves, deer and Indians were numerous, and the cause of much fear and discomfort to the mother and children while the father was at a distance from home at work to support his family and pay for more land. Some time after the first cabin was constructed Mr. Voak built a log house on the site where he subsequently built the house that is at present the home of his grandson, John Voak, and his sons and his grandchildren. A portion of a log barn is still standing. Mr. Voak added to his first forty acres by purchase until he had about 700 acres, on which he settled his sons and daughters, and which is now conceded to be of quality unsurpassed in Western New York for general farming and fruit growing. The children of the first John and Rachel Voak were Lydia, born April 30, 1789, died April 5, 1877; James, born January 16, 1791, died February 27, 1874; Abraham, born May 12, 1793, died February 20, 1877; Isaac, born May 22, 1795, died June 8, 1834; Sarah, born September 16, 1797, died May 14, 1874; Samuel, born September 6, 1799, living; Joseph, born December 10, 1801, died February 11, 1884; Mary, born May 17, 1804, died March 12, 1813; John, born October 4, 1806, died January 30, 1812; Josiah, born January 1, 1809, living. Only two of the above-named are now living—Samuel, in Benton, Lake County, Ill., with his daughter, in the ninety-third year of his age; and Josiah, in his eighty-third year, in Benton, Yates County, N. Y., with his son, W. B. Voak. James Voak, the oldest son, was born in New Jersey and was one of the four children that came from New Jersey with their parents to this country, that was then a wilderness, and had much to do in clearing the land of the forest and making it to "bud and blossom as the rose." In 1817 he married Rebecca Hall, who was born in the same locality, March 15, 1800. They settled and lived on the farm



where Josiah Voak now resides. They remained there until their youngest son, John, was three years old, then making a change with his youngest brother, Josiah, they moved to and resided on the homestead farm the remainder of their lives. James and Rebecca Voak had four children: Ellen, who was born May 21, 1819, married Herman Stiles, and now resides in Kansas; Huldah D., born August 10, 1820, married Hiram U. Reynolds, and resides in Illinois; Isaac D., born September 9, 1822, now resides in Buffalo, N. Y., married Margaret N. Scott; she died leaving three children—Lorin, the oldest, only survives and now resides in Chicago, Ill. At the age of twenty James Voak, with others of his brothers and sisters, joined the Methodist Church, and lived thereafter a consistent Christian, honoring his profession by an upright, pious and good life. He was one of the trustees of the M. E. Church at the time it was built in 1844, and contributed liberally to its construction and support while he lived. All of his brothers and sisters, as well as their parents, were members of the M. E. Church. Meetings were held at their home for many years previous to the building of the church, and the homestead was the stopping place of the early itinerant preachers. John Voak, youngest son of James, was born in Benton, N. Y., July 13, 1827, and was educated at the common schools and G. W. Seminary at Lima, N. Y. He has been a farmer all his life and still owns the homestead. In politics he is a Republican, and is justice of the peace, which position he has held for a number of years. He married Rachel Schoon Scott, daughter of William Scott; she died October 2, 1885. They had three children: Mary R., Horace G. and Dexter J. Mary R. died January 7, 1878, aged twenty-six years; Horace G. married Helen, daughter of Wesley Taylor, of Prattsburgh, N. Y.; she died in 1887; and Dexter J. who married Oneida C., daughter of David Wells, of Potter, N. Y. Mr. Voak has lived on the homestead farm since about three years old. For a number of years he was engaged largely in introducing agricultural implements and machines, having sold the first successful combination reaper and mower, the first self-raking reaper, the first horsefork, the first glass fruit jar or can, and various other inventions. He kept the "Voak Post-office" as deputy the first five years of its existence, Peregrine Hollett being postmaster at that time.

Wheeler, Horace B., son of Ephraim and Fannie (Brown) Wheeler, was born June 20, 1826, in this town, and was educated at the district schools. He has been a very successful farmer, owning at the present time 400 acres of land, one of the finest farms in Yates County. He has always been a Republican, but has taken no very active part in town affairs, devoting his time and energy to the cultivation of his farm and the raising of stock. Mr. Wheeler married, in October, 1855, Betsey P., daughter of Silas Lacey, of Warren, Pa., and their children are Glenn Lincoln, who married Lelia C., daughter of Adam Hunt of Milo, N. Y., and Brad. H. Wheeler, who died aged eighteen.

Wyman, George G., son of Samuel and Betsey R. (Walterman) Wyman, a descendant of the eighth generation from Roger Williams of Rhode Island, was born in Potter, August 9, 1806. He was educated at the common schools of the day, and he still owns the farm upon which he was born. In politics he has always been a Republican, and has taken an active interest in the affairs of his native town. He has been supervisor four years and assessor twelve years. He is a member of Milo Lodge at Penn Yan, F. and A. M., and he and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. October 20, 1831, Mr. Wyman married Caroline, daughter of Samuel Ross, of Mansfield, Conn., and they had twelve children: Adelia S., who married Edwin J. Hermans, of Potter, N. Y.; Benjamin W., who married Rachel Crawford of Penn Yan, N. Y.; Harriet R. (deceased), married F. C. Hobart of Potter, N. Y.; Elizabeth R., married Frank Tilford, of Ontario County, N. Y.; Sarah G. (deceased); Emily L., an artist who teaches at Wilbraham, Mass.; Alice A. (deceased); Ella E., married J. B. Tracy, of Schuyler County, N. Y.; Edward S. (deceased), who married Lizzie Bordwell, of Potter, N. Y.; Susan C., who married John Voorhees, of Potter, N. Y.; Flora A., who married Martin Foster, of this town; and Henry B., who married Mary Anderson, of Milo, N. Y., and resides on the homestead.

#### TOWN OF MIDDLESEX.

Adams, Alden A., son of Lovell and Susanna P. (Curtis) Adams, was born December 23, 1848, a native of this town, and was educated at the district schools and Naples Academy. Mr. Adams has been a farmer

nearly all his life, but has been in the mercantile business for the last few years. He was engaged in the hardware trade for about three years, under the firm name of Williams & Adams, but they sold out and since that time he has been in the general merchandise business, and is the postmaster at Middlesex. In politics he has always been a Republican and has been supervisor of this town two terms, 1887-88. He is a charter member of the A. O. U. W., of this place. Mr. Adams married Lodema E., daughter of Robert Rackham, of this town, March 26, 1870, and their children are Alta B., Lovell L., and Lura B.

Conley, J. Arden, M.D., of Middlesex, son of Oscar and Alvira (Pulver) Conley, was born October 30, 1865, in Jerusalem, N. Y., educated at the district school and Penn Yan Academy, and after leaving there went to the New York Eclectic Medical College, where he graduated with honors in 1888, receiving 98 per cent. out of a possible 100. After receiving his diploma he began the practice of medicine at Italy Hill, and remained there for about two years and then came to this town, where he now has a large practice. He is a member of the Yates County Medical Society, Royal Templars of Temperance, and the New York State Eclectic Medical Society. He married Olivia, daughter of Lemam Corey, of Jerusalem, N. Y., and they are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of this place.

Darling, Lemuel T., son of Alden and Asenith (Truesdell) Darling, was born March 5, 1838, in Phelps, Ontario County, N. Y., and came to this town with his parents, when a child. He was educated at the common schools and has been a farmer all his life. In politics an active Republican, he has been assessor three years, and at the present time he is supervisor of Middlesex, N. Y., having been re-elected in 1892. He is a member of the M. E. Church and also a member of the A. O. U. W. Society, of that place. December 31, 1891, Mr. Darling married Axcelia, daughter of William L. and Angeline (Parsons) Phelps, of Italy, N. Y. She was born August 15, 1847, in Italy, Yates County, N. Y.

Loomis, Allen, son of Nathaniel and Mariah (Fitch) Loomis, was born August 15, 1839, in Middlesex, and was educated in the district schools and Rushville Academy. He has been a farmer all his life. In politics a Republican, he has taken an active interest in the affairs of his native

town. He has been assessor two terms and supervisor two years, 1889-90. Both he and his family are members of the M. E. Church at Rushville, N. Y. February 14, 1871, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Harold Ellerington, of this town, and their children are Nellie M., born December 2, 1871; Anna M., born May 19, 1877; and Carrie E., born February 18, 1881.

Smith, James E., son of Simon and Martha (Bush) Smith, was born January 21, 1857, in Naples, N. Y., was educated at Naples Academy and Lima, N. Y. Mr. Smith has been a farmer all his life. He came to this town in July, 1883, and purchased a fine farm in the valley between Rushville and Middlesex village. Mr. Smith is one of the railroad commissioners of this town. In politics he is a Prohibitionist. He and his family are members of the M. E. Church of this town. He married Catherine, daughter of Casemer Bliss of Owego, N. Y., January 23, 1868.

Tyler, Harvey W., son of Roswell R. and Sarah (Wood) Tyler, was born March 25, 1844, in this town, and educated at the district schools, Naples Academy and the State Normal School at Albany, N. Y. He taught school for about four years, since which time he has been a farmer. In politics he is a Republican and has held the office of justice of the peace for about twelve years. Mr. Tyler and family are members of the First Baptist Church of Middlesex. He is also a member of A. O. U. W., of this place. September 26, 1871, he married Amanda, daughter of John L. Dintruff, of this town, and their children are Carrie B., John D. and Frank R.

Williams, Lewis Cass, son of Oliver S. Williams, was born July 27, 1858, in this town, was educated at the district schools and Penn Yan Academy and has been a farmer nearly all his life. He entered upon the hardware business under the firm name of Williams & Adams, but gave up the business after three years. He was postmaster under President Cleveland. In politics always a Democrat, he was supervisor of Middlesex in 1885-86, and both he and his family are members of the M. E. Church at Middlesex. He married Carrie, daughter of William Foster, of the town of Middlesex, and their children are Marion C. and Marie Williams.



Williams, Oliver S., was born in the town of Middlesex, May 11, 1823, and has been a continuous resident of the town since that date, his principal occupation being farming; has been engaged at different times in the mercantile business, and has dealt in real estate, sheep and cattle to some extent; has held several town offices of minor importance; was elected supervisor of the town in 1854 on a ticket representing a party largely in the minority; was elected member of Assembly on the People's ticket in 1867. Married Marion B. Foote, daughter of Eli Foote, February 18, 1857. Five children have been born to them, three only surviving: Joel F., killed by accident November 7, 1866, aged five years; Lucy P., died March 20, 1891, aged nearly twenty-four years; Lewis C., oldest son, resides in the town, and is a progressive farmer and breeder of American Merino sheep; was elected supervisor of the town on minority ticket in 1886, and re-elected by an increased majority in 1887. The daughter, Carlotta, is a graduate of Brockport Normal School (Class '91), and is engaged in teaching as principal of the graded school at Middlesex Center; John E., youngest son, is a student at Brockport Normal School. Many radical changes have taken place in the township within the memory of the subject of this sketch. The solitary log cabin of our pioneer settlers near the center of the town has given place to a flourishing little village—Middlesex Center—containing a population of several hundred. Four fine churches of different denominations have been substituted for as many "Inns" or "Taverns" of "ye olden time," all of the same denomination. No licenses for the sale of liquor have been granted in the town for the past twenty-five years, and no taxes levied for the town poor the last fifteen years.

#### TOWN OF ITALY.

Clark, Harvey M., son of Joel M. and Lucelia (Fosgate) Clark, was born June 8, 1850, in this town, and was educated at the district schools. He learned the cabinet-maker's trade and carried on that business for about twelve years, and followed the carpenter's trade several years, since which time he has been a farmer. Mr. Clark has been prominent in the affairs of this town, has served as town clerk for three years, and supervisor for two terms. In politics he is a staunch Republican. He

married Hattie R., daughter of Albert Durham, of Jerusalem, N. Y., and they have three children: Mary A., Cora E. and Ward L. Clark.

Fox, James, was born in Vermont and married Jane Dean, and settled in this town in 1813. He was the first militia captain in the town, and was always known as Captain Fox. He was a school teacher, and held various town offices. He died in 1868, aged eighty-two. His wife died in 1852. They had nine sons, Thomas J., James L., Amos D., William H., Ira S., Lewis M., Alden D., Charles H. and Jeremiah F. Alden D. Fox married Amy Robson, and they had two children, Anna and Elmer. Mr. Fox was educated at the district schools, commenced life as school teacher, taught thirteen terms; attended school at Franklin Academy two terms, and two terms at other graded schools. He has been a farmer all his life. In politics he is a Republican, and has taken an active interest in the affairs of his town and county. He has held many offices in his town, including that of town clerk for a number of years, town superintendent of schools for two terms, county clerk one term (1868-70), supervisor nine terms, and has held by appointment the office of postmaster for a number of years. He was also enrolling officer through the late war.

Kennedy, David, son of John and Jane (Carson) Kennedy, was born October 12, 1839, at Guelph, Canada, and came with his parents to this town in 1841. He was educated at the common schools and has been a farmer all his life. In politics he is a Democrat. Mr. Kennedy has always taken an active interest in the affairs of the town, and has been supervisor two terms. He enlisted September 2, 1864, in Company C, One Hundred and Eighty-eighth Regiment New York Infantry, and was in the battles of Hatcher's Run, Five Forks, Petersburg, Va., and was at Appomattox at the time of Gen. Lee's surrender. He was mustered out July 1, 1865. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander McMichael, of Prattsburg, N. Y. They have six children, viz.: George M., Jennie Grace, Mary B., Jessie A., Arthur and Walter, all living. Mr. Kennedy is one of the loan commissioners of the county.

Kennedy, William A., son of John and Jane (Carson) Kennedy, was born in Italy, N. Y., April 2, 1851. He was educated at the common schools of this town and Scottsville, N. Y. Mr. Kennedy has been a

manufacturer nearly ever since he left school, and he is carrying on at the present time the manufacture of fruit baskets at Italy Hill, under the firm name of Kennedy & Pulver, and they also do custom milling business at the same place. In politics Mr. Kennedy is a Prohibitionist, and is a member of Royal Templars of Temperance. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at this place. He married Ella, daughter of Jerome and Mary (Neff) Doubleday, of Starkey, N. Y., November 7, 1872, and by this union there are two children, Jerome D. and Livonia A. Kennedy.

Preston, George L., was born at Canisteo, Steuben County, N. Y., April 18, 1861. He was the only son of Elisha W. and Martha J. Preston, who still reside at Canisteo. He received his early training from the district schools and Canisteo Academy, and began the study of medicine in 1879, attending college in Buffalo during the winter of 1880-81, and completing his study at the Eclectic Medical College of the city of New York, where he graduated in the spring of 1882. He commenced the practice of his profession at West Almond, remaining there but a few months, when he came to Italy in November, 1882, where he has since resided with the exception of the winter of 1885-86, which was spent at the Post Graduate Medical School of New York. He married Carrie A., daughter of Daniel and Rosina Jamison, March 7, 1888. Mrs. Preston was born at Canisteo, on June 15, 1862, and received her education in the Canisteo Academy. They have one son, J. Louis Preston, born, February 5, 1889. Mr. Preston's political views have always been Republican, and he was honored by his party with the office of coroner November 3, 1891.

Pulver, George, son of Peter and Lavina (Conklin) Pulver, was born July 2, 1826, in Jerusalem. He was educated at the common schools and has been a successful farmer. In politics he is a Prohibitionist. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Italy Hill, and he is also trustee of the same church. Mr. Pulver married, first, Eliza E., daughter of William Crosby, of Benton, N. Y., by whom he had two children, Frank and Crosby, both deceased. Mrs. Pulver died in 1862, and he married, second, Nancy, daughter of William Griswold, of this town, and they have six children; Willard W., Morris E., John M., Peter D., Alice M. and Cornelia. All living.

Robson, A. Flag, was born in Italy, N. Y., February 8, 1857. His father, Thomas S. Robson, was born in Italy, N. Y., February 2, 1812, where he lived until his death, November 13, 1878, his father, Andrew Robson, being one of the earliest settlers in town. Thomas S. married Abigail P. Hodge, who was born February 9, 1818, and died April 11, 1881. A. Flag Robson was educated in the public schools and at Eastman's National Business College at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., where he graduated in the spring of 1874. He was town clerk several years prior to 1885, and supervisor of the town of Italy during the years 1885 and 1886, and has been postmaster at the Italy post-office continuously since February 13, 1879, to the present (January 1892). Mr. Robson married, November 22, 1881, Mary P. Negus, daughter of Rev. C. R. and Mary A. Negus, who was born at Taberg, Oneida County, N. Y., January 1, 1858. He has been in the mercantile business at Italy, N. Y., since 1874. In politics Mr. Robson is a Republican.

White, Josiah, was born in Saratoga County, N. Y., in 1810, and came to Branchport in 1835, and engaged in lumbering on what is known as the Beddoe tract, and later moved to the west part of Jerusalem, where he now resides. Mr. White has held many offices of public trust, among them being town supervisor. He married Miss Sally Loomis, in 1837, and they had two sons, of whom Ezra, who resides in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., was president of Eastman's College for many years. He also had many city offices. Ransom resides in San Francisco, Cal., and is interested in the insurance business. After the death of his first wife, Mr. White married, in 1851, Miss Elizabeth Loomis, by whom he had two children, Otto L. and Jennie. Otto L. resides on the farm; Jennie married George McKay, and resides in Jerusalem on the place known as the Loomis farm.

Wixom, Bradford S., son of Shubal and Charlotte (DeKay) Wixom, was born August 19, 1832, in Prattsburgh, Steuben County, N. Y., and was educated in the common schools and Franklin Academy, of his native town. He began his career as school teacher in 1850. In 1858 he married Helen E., daughter of the late Samuel Graham, and in 1864 moved to Italy, Yates County, and engaged in farming. He was supervisor of the town in 1868-69-70, the last year serving as chairman of the board of supervisors; was under-sheriff of the county in 1872,



having been appointed to that position by John L. Dinturff, then sheriff. He was school commissioner of the county during the years 1873-74 and 1875, since which time he has been justice of the peace, having been re-elected each succeeding four years. He also served two years as justice of sessions. Politically he has been identified with the Republican party, having cast his first vote for the electors of John C. Fremont. Mr. and Mrs. Wixom have two sons and one daughter—Charles F., of Buffalo, N. Y.; Jessie H., now of Rochester, N. Y.; and Claude H., now on the farm in Italy.

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